ALL OF A SUDDEN ..
...A MELODY I'M FAMILIAR WITH...
UM... HELLO?
...BEGINS TO FILL MY HEAD
DO YOU HEAR ME?
CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE?
BECAUSE THIS CELL PHONE...
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING ...

...IS A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION.

AN IMAGINARY CELL PHONE...

KIMI NI SHIKA KIKOENAI

(NOBODY CAN HEAR ME BUT YOU)

STORY:
OTSUICHI
ART:
KIYOHARA HIRO

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CHAPTER 1

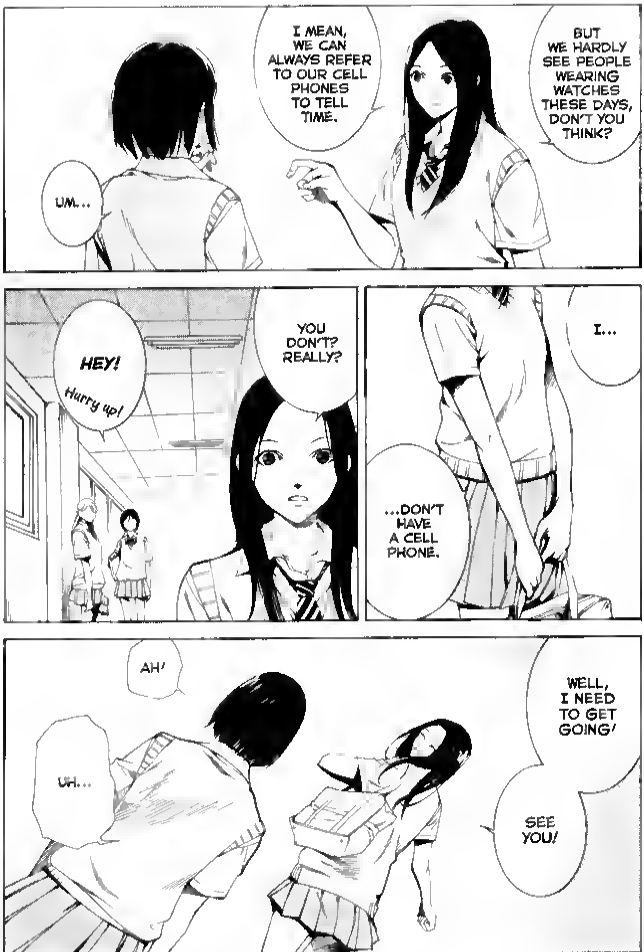
ding dong
ding dong
ding dong
HELLO?
YEAH
SURE. CATCH YOU LATER, THEN
beep
WHAT'S UP?
MY BOYFRIEND JUST ASKED ME OUT TO KARAOKE.
KARA-OKE?
I THINK I'LL MAIL FUT-CHAN--
HEY, LOOK OUT IN FRONT OF YOU!!
ME, TOO! I WANT TO GO, TOO!
WELL?
ARE YOU GOING TO INVITE ANYONE ELSE?

BUMP
EEP!
OW, OW, OW ...
I'M ...
I AM SO SORRY!
UM ...
NO, IT'S MY FAULT. I WASN'T WATCHING MY STEP.
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN ...
...AREN'T YOU IN MY CLASS? AIHARA-SAN... RIGHT?

KARAOKE
ANYWAY, WE'RE ALL GOING OUT TO KARAOKE AFTER THIS. WANT TO JOIN US?
NOT ONCE SINCE WE ENTERED SCHOOL.
WE'VE NEVER TALKED BEFORE, HAVE WE?

I'M... I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT THAT KIND OF THING.
OH, BUT...

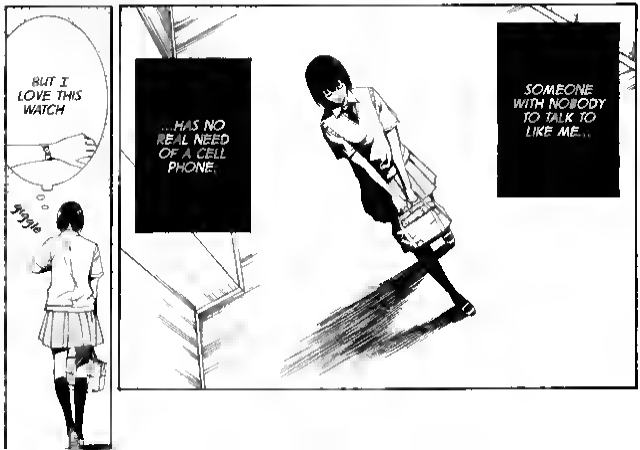
UM...
YOU WEAR A WATCH?
So cute!
I SEE.


UM...
I MEAN, WE CAN ALWAYS REFER TO OUR CELL PHONES TO TELL TIME.
BUT WE HARDLY SEE PEOPLE WEARING WATCHES THESE DAYS, DON'T YOU THINK?
HEY!
Hurry up!
YOU DON'T? REALLY?
I...
...DON'T HAVE A CELL PHONE.
AH!
UH...
WELL, I NEED TO GET GOING!
SEE YOU!

G-
GOOD
...!
GOOD-BYE
I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY GIRL IN THIS SCHOOL...
...WHO DOESN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE.

IT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE SPOKE TO ME IN THREE DAYS, TOO...
MY VOICE WOULDN'T COME OUT PROPERLY
...I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE A CELL PHONE OF MY OWN, JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.
ACTUALLY...
THEY ALL SEEM TO BE CONNECTED THROUGH THEIR CELL PHONES, LIKE ONE MASSIVE NETWORK.
BUT I'M NOT A PART OF IT.

I'D GIVE THEM A VAGUE SMILE AND THEY'D LOSE ANY INTEREST IN TRYING TO TALK TO ME
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO REACT TO THE THINGS OTHER PEOPLE SAY
SINCE I'M NO GOOD AT CONVERSATION, I TEND TO ACT DEFENSIVE WHEN PEOPLE APPROACH ME

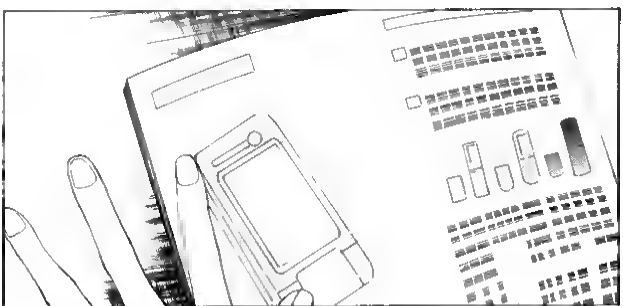

BUT I LOVE THIS WATCH
...HAS NO REAL NEED OF A CELL PHONE.
SOMEONE WITH NOBODY TO TALK TO LIKE ME...

HOW WOULD IT LOOK LIKE?
I HAD A CELL PHONE OF MY OWN
LET'S JUST SAY...
LIBRARY
...
TO BE WHITE...
glow
I'D LIKE IT...

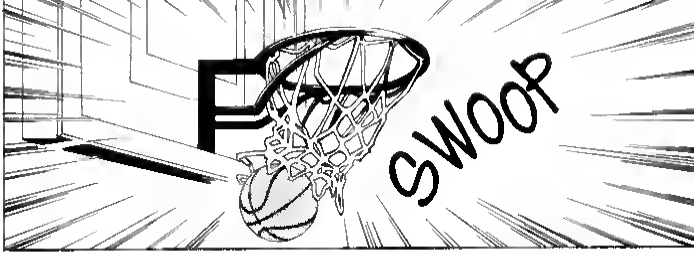
IT WOULD FEEL SMOOTH...
...TO TOUCH...
YEAH...
THAT'S HOW IT'D LOOK LIKE...

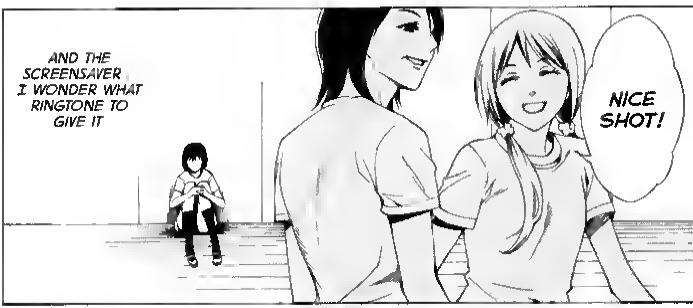
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK
PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT IT
THIS IS THE LATEST MODEL!

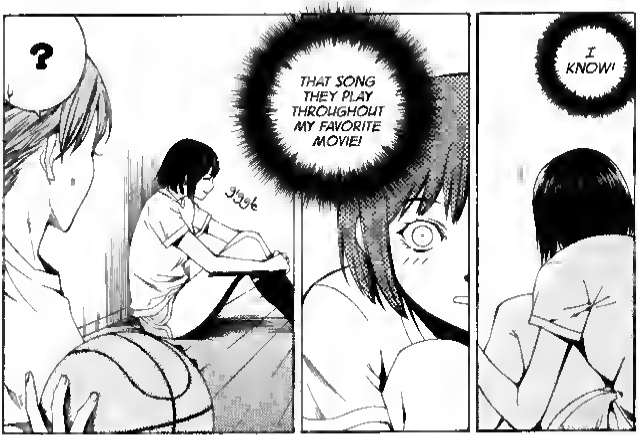
PLEASE HAVE A LOOK!



EVEN AN MP3 PLAYER?!!
DIGITAL CAMERA ?!
COOL ...
THEY COME WITH ALL SORTS OF NIFTY FEATURES THESE DAYS.
WOW...
...TO MAKE IT SEEM SO REAL, LIKE IT'S THERE WITHIN MY REACH.
I TRY TO MAKE FULL USE OF MY IMAGINATION...
A CELL PHONE
JUST HAVING IT IN MY MIND WON'T HARM ANYONE!
...TO CALL MY OWN


SWOOP


AND THE SCREENSAVER I WONDER WHAT RINGTONE TO GIVE IT
NICE SHOT!


?
giggle
THAT SONG THEY PLAY THROUGHOUT MY FAVORITE MOVIE!
I KNOW!

THAT'S WHAT I DID...
...IN CLASS OR DURING A MEAL...
...INVENTING THE PERFECT CELL PHONE IN MY HEAD.
IT'S SO DEEPLY INGRAINED IN MY BRAIN...
...I FORGET IT'S NOT REAL.

MMM...
A FEW DAYS LATER
>beep<
>beep<
>beep<
>beep<
07:00
>beep<
>beep<
OH, DID YOU ACTUALLY WAKE UP ON YOUR OWN?
YEAH, MY ALARM CLOCK WENT OFF.
?
IT'S MORNING ALREADY
RISE AND SHINE, RYOU
creak
BUT, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOUR ALARM CLOCK BROKE DOWN YESTERDAY?

HUH?
BUT I REMEMBER HEARING THE ALARM...
THE CLOCK'S NOT WORKING
THAT ...
.. MEANS ...
IT CAN'T BE...

HEY!
WHOSE CELL PHONE WAS THAT?!
OOPS! I'M SORRY!
Scribble
scribble
IN SHORT...
...THE AUTHOR—
THE ALARM I HEARD THIS MORNING
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TURN OFF YOUR PHONE DURING CLASS!
AIHARA.
AIHARA RYOU!
I DID INCLUDE THAT FEATURE IN MY CELL PHONE...

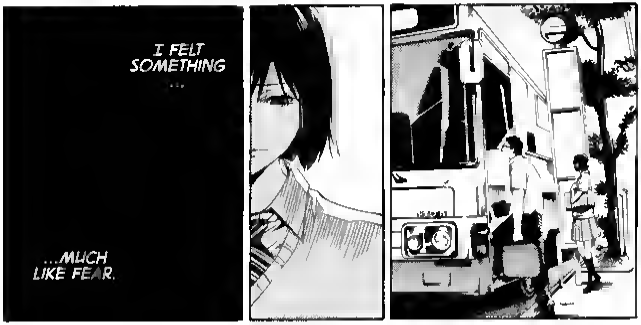
HE COULD— THE—
READ THE THIRD LINE ON PAGE 64.
Y-YES!
READ LOUDER.
I CAN'T HEAR YOU, AIHARA.
H-HIS ARM WAS EN-ENGULFED WITH A ST-STATIC-LIKE NUMBNESS. .
H-HE REALIZED HE COULD ONLY S-SOMEWHAT FEEL THE P-PAIN ..
IN THE SILENT, PR-PROFOUND DARKNESS . .
.. IN HIS R-RIGHT ARM FROM THE ELBOW DOWN TO THE F-FINGERTIPS.
.ONLY THAT SENSATION M MANIFESTED ITSELF TO HIM...

YOU SOUNDED LIKE A CATERPILLAR SQUEAKING.
BE MORE COHERENT WHEN YOU SPEAK.
YOU CAN STOP READING.
HA HA HA HA HA!
HEE HEE.
CONTINUE, TAKAGI.
YES, SIR.
BEFORE LONG, SOMEONE LIFTED HIS LEFT HAND ...

THIS RINGTONE
IS THE SAME MELODY AS MINE
?
...
WHY DOESN'T ANYONE NOTICE THE SOUND?

IT COMES ...!
...FROM WITHIN MY HEAD!

...
THAT'S ENOUGH, THANK YOU.
NEXT...
IT STOPPED RINGING
2:05 PM...
Log
You have 1 missed call
1352
4119769913
3421561115
THE CELL PHONE IN MY HEAD RECORDED ONE MISSED CALL...
...BY A PHONE WITH A VERY LONG NUMBER.


I FELT SOMETHING
...
...MUCH LIKE FEAR.

HOW COULD THE CELL PHONE INVENTED BY MY IMAGINATION RECEIVE A CALL?
THIS COULDN'T BE HAPPENING

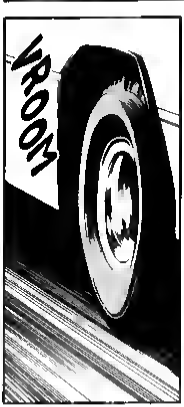
...I WOULD NEVER, EVER LET MY CELL PHONE BE SEPARATED FROM ME...
JUST MY CELL PHONE...
EVEN IF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WERE TO WALK OUT ON ME...
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...

OH, SORRY. I'M ON A BUS RIGHT NOW.
whew

beep
HELLO?

A TINY PHONE WITH THEM.

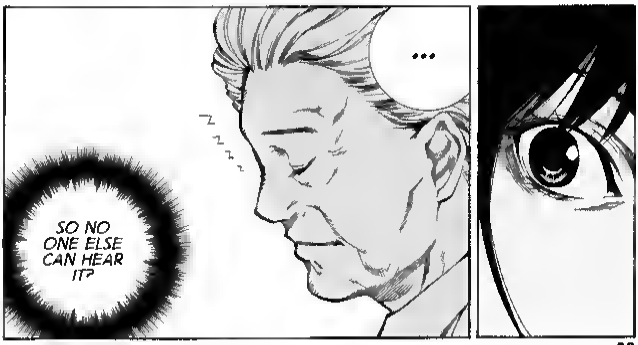
THESE DAYS EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE...

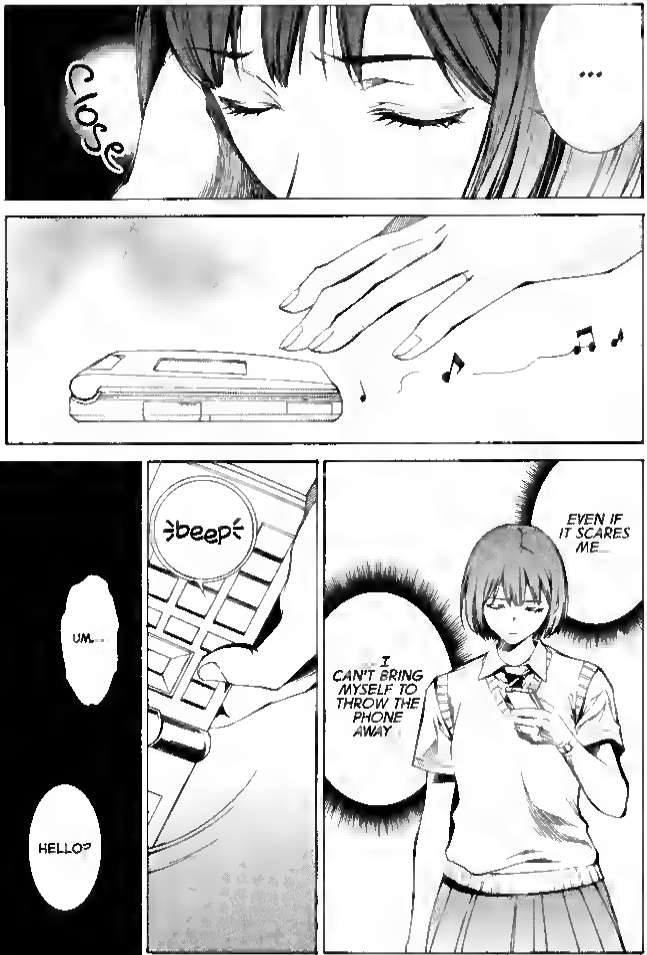

VROOM

NO, I DON'T
DO YOU HAVE ONE, TOO?

THE SOUND OF A CELL PHONE...
IS IT THE GUY SITTING IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN?
...

IT'S HERE...


...
SO NO ONE ELSE CAN HEAR IT?


close
...
beep
UM...
HELLO?
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO THROW THE PHONE AWAY
EVEN IF IT SCARES ME...

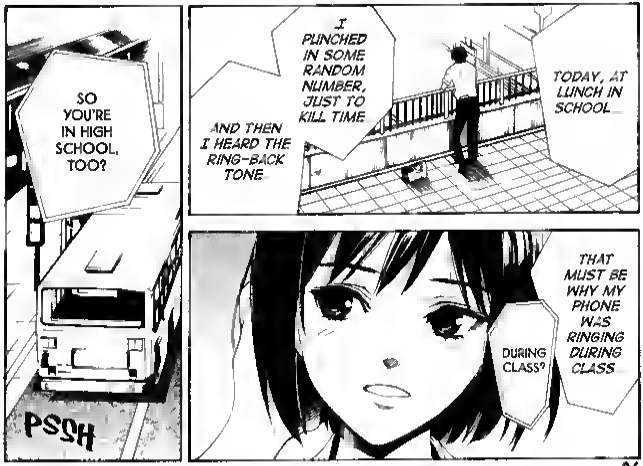
"HUH"?
YOU CAN HEAR ME?
Y-YES...
AH! UH...
I ACTUALLY GOT THROUGH...
HUH?!
Y-YES, BUT...
YOU CAN HEAR ME IN PROPER JAPANESE?
...WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH MY PHONE?

YOU CAN ACTUALLY HEAR ME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...

I MEAN, HERE I AM, TALKING ON A CELL PHONE IN MY HEAD
I'M THE ONE FINDING THIS HARD TO BELIEVE

I'M ALSO...
...USING A CELL PHONE IN MY HEAD
HUH?
SAME HERE

I WAS DAYDREAMING
AND SUDDENLY THERE IT WAS IN MY HEAD
THE CELL PHONE THAT FELT SO REAL
NO WAY.


TODAY, AT LUNCH IN SCHOOL
I PUNCHED IN SOME RANDOM NUMBER, JUST TO KILL TIME
AND THEN I HEARD THE RING-BACK TONE
SO YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL, TOO?
PSSH
THAT MUST BE WHY MY PHONE WAS RINGING DURING CLASS
DURING CLASS?

STUMBLE
I'M IN TENTH—
YIKES!
I'M IN ELEVENTH GRADE.

I WAS TOO CAUGHT UP TALKING TO YOU TO NOTICE MY FOOTING...
thump thump
WHAT HAPPENED?

Y-YEAH, I DON'T MIND
SURE.
CAN I CALL YOU AGAIN AFTER MY MATH CLASS?
UM, IS IT OK IF I HANG UP RIGHT NOW? JUST FOR THE TIME BEING?

AIHARA ...
AIHARA RYOU...
YOU?
I'M NOZAKI SHINYA.
BYE—
AH!
HOLD ON!

click
Close
NOZAKI
...
SHINYA
...
...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I MUST BE GOING INSANE.
I'M SURE NOZAKI SHINYA IS A PRODUCT OF MY IMAGINATION
I WANTED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, AND MY SUBCONSCIOUS MADE HIM UP
HE'S MY ALTER EGO
THAT IDEA SOUNDS FAR MORE REALISTIC
THAN THE IDEA OF GETTING CONNECTED TO SOMEONE ELSE'S HEAD

AN IMAGINARY CELL PHONE...
close
WHAT EXACTLY IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE?
I GUESS I NEED TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF ...
Pluck
WHO IS THAT WOMAN, ANYWAY?
THE LINE YOU ARE TRYING TO USE IS CURRENTLY OUT OF SERVICE.
FIRST, THE WEATHER FORECAST
THE LINE—
TIME SIGNAL

THIS IS THE LAST TIME...
JUST ONE MORE TRY...
beep
beep
beep

HELLO?
AH!
UM, UH
I'M NOT SOME FREAK, OF COURSE
I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT OF THE BLUE
gasp
WHO IS THIS?

LIM, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING IMPORTANT TO SAY BUT—
YOU WERE JUST TRYING IT OUT...
...WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU GOT THROUGH THE CELL PHONE INSIDE MY HEAD.
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME, RIGHT?
SO SHE'S JUST LIKE ME...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
AIHARA RYOU... I'M IN TENTH GRADE.
I'M HARADA
I TURN 28 THIS YEAR, AND I WORK IN A COMPANY

STILL NOT USED TO YOUR PHONE?
BY THE WAY, YOU DON'T SOUND TOO HAPPY.
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH HOW IT WORKS, HARADA-SAN?

...
I GUESS YOU CAN CALL ME A PRO

UM...
I RECEIVED A CALL FROM A GUY CALLED NOZAKI SOME TIME AGO.
...

SO...
IT MADE ME WONDER IF I WAS GOING NUTS OR SOMETHING...
YES.
AH, SO RIGHT NOW...
YOU SUSPECT THIS IS A DELUSION OF SOME KIND?
HUH?
THERE IS A WAY
YES.
YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE TALKING TO REAL PEOPLE?

THERE'S A WAY...
...FOR YOU TO FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT...
...HE AND I ARE PART OF YOUR IMAGINATION.

This work is from fans to fans.
If you like Otsuichi and Kiyohara Hiro's work, support them by buying the manga.

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PROFILE

Otsuichi

Otsuichi was born in Fukuoka Prefecture [illegible]

He made his debut with *Natsu to Honabi to Watashi no Shitai* in the year 1996 which won him the main prize of the Non fiction category in the 6th Shueisha Jump Novel Awards

In 2003 he won the main prize in the 3rd Mystery Classics Awards for his novel *GOTH Wrist Cut Jiken*

He has written a number of stories such as *ZOO Heimen Inu Kurai Tokoro de Machiawase Kutsushita o Kakuse! Ushinawareru Monogatari, Juu to Chocolate*, etc

Kiyohara Hiro

Kiyohara Hiro was born in Aichi Prefecture in 1981

He made his debut in 2005 when 'Sakurairo Symmetry' appeared in the May issue of *Shounen Ace*

In 2006 he was assigned with the task of adapting *Shisseki HOLIDAY* into a graphic novel This book is his second graphic novel

Cover design by Asaba Tama (Light Publicity)

Kadokawa Comics A

KIMI NI SHIKA KIKOENAI

STORY:
OTSUICHI

ART:
KIYOHARA
HIRO

君にしか聞こえない

Kadokawa Comics A

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君にしか聞こえない

10月5日はれのち雨
今日失恋しました。

October 5 (Clear skies, then rain)
Today my girlfriend dumped me

10月6日くもり
昨日失恋しました。

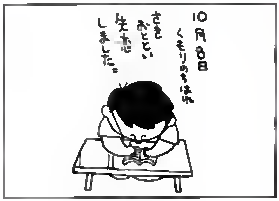
October 6 (Cloudy)
Yesterday my girlfriend dumped me

10月7日はれのちくもり
おととい失恋しました。

October 7 (Clear skies then cloudy)
Day before yesterday, my girlfriend dumped me

10月8日くもりのちはれ
さきおととい失恋しました。

October 8 (Cloudy, then clear)
Three days ago my girl-friend dumped me



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CHAPTER 2

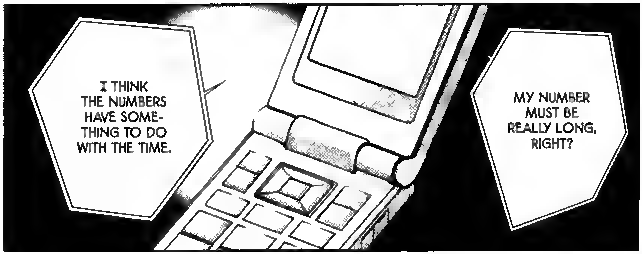
THERE'S A WAY
.. FOR YOU TO FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT ..
.. HE AND I ARE PART OF YOUR IMAGINATION...
IF THE CELL PHONE IN MY HEAD...
WAS NO ILLUSION, THEN—
!

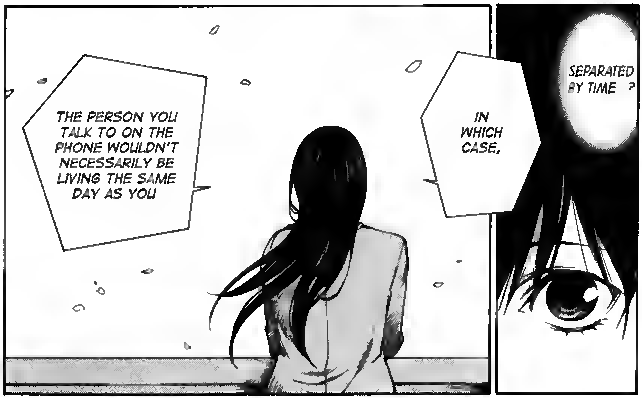
IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU GAG

I'M STILL UNCONVINCED THAT YOU'RE REAL
.....
I
FOR ALL I KNOW, I COULD BE HALLUCINATING ABOUT YOUR VOICE.
...I FEEL THE SAME WAY TOO
GIVE ME SOME TIME TO MAKE SURE...
SO PLEASE,

...THAT'S HOW...
YOU CAN PROVE TO EACH OTHER THAT YOU'RE REAL.
G-GOT IT.
I THINK I'LL TRY IT OUT THE NEXT TIME...
NOZAKI-SAN CALLS.
?
bzzt
bzzt
YOUR VOICE SOUNDS AWFULLY DISTANT TO ME.
HELLO? HARADA-SAN?
DON'T WORRY I CAN HEAR YOU JUST FINE.
BUT NOZAKI-SAN'S WAS LOUD AND CLEAR.

?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE
WE'RE SEPARATED BY A HUGE GAP IN TIME.


I THINK THE NUMBERS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE TIME.
MY NUMBER MUST BE REALLY LONG, RIGHT?


THE PERSON YOU TALK TO ON THE PHONE WOULDN'T NECESSARILY BE LIVING THE SAME DAY AS YOU
IN WHICH CASE,
SEPARATED BY TIME ?

WHAT'S THE DATE OVER THERE?
UM... IT'S JUNE 21ST.
OH? THEN YOU'RE A SEASON AHEAD OF ME.
HUH?
WELL, YOU SEE...
...CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE IN FULL BLOOM OVER HERE.
!

AFTER THAT...

...SHE TOLD ME A FEW THINGS ABOUT THE INVISIBLE PHONE LINE.

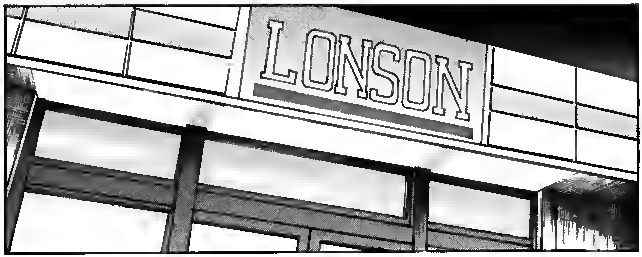
THINGS LIKE...

...HOW OUR SPOKEN VOICES OR REAL-LIFE SOUNDS MADE BY VIBRATION IN THE AIR...
...WON'T REACH THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE, NO MATTER HOW LOUD THEY ARE
SO IT SEEMS WE CAN ONLY COMMUNICATE USING OUR INNER VOICES
...BUT I DON'T THINK SHE KNOWS WHY THERE'S A GAP IN THE FIRST PLACE EITHER
AND THE GAP IN TIME STAYS FIXED IT WON'T CHANGE

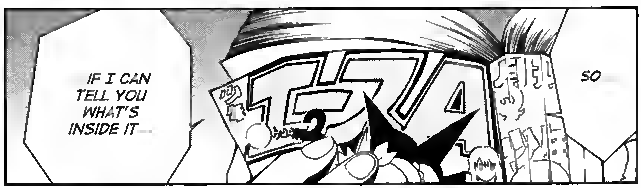
I'M RIDING MY BIKE RIGHT NOW
SO AM I
THE SKY'S A DEEP SHADE OF RED
A SUNSET IN ITS FULL GLORY

AREN'T YOU IN JAPAN?
I GUESS THERE'S A TIME DIFFER-ENCE?
THE SKY'S PITCH-BLACK OVER HERE
IT'S COM-PLETELY DARK
SUNSET...?
HUH? COMPLETELY?
JUNE 21ST
WHAT'S THE DATE OVER THERE?
6 O'CLOCK SHARP

HUH?
IT'S THE SAME DATE, BUT IN THE WORLD I'M IN RIGHT NOW...
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
ONE HOUR EXACTLY...
Creak
IT'S 7 O'CLOCK...
ONE HOUR
NOZAKI-SAN AND I ARE ONLY AN HOUR APART!



*The magazine Kimi ni Shika Kikoenai ran in



IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

OK PAGE 219.
THERE'S A COUPLE OF HIGH SCHOOLERS, A GUY AND A GIRL, TALKING
PAGE 219 A GIRL...
THE GIRL HAS LONG HAIR AND A MOLE UNDER HER LEFT EYE.
IT'S JUST AS YOU'VE SAID!
I'VE FOUND HER!
THEN NOZAKI-SAN IS REAL!
AND HE'S AT THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE IN MY HEAD!
KAMIYAMA-KUN?
FOUND HER

HUH?
LET'S SEE YOKOHAMA WALKER
NOW'S YOUR TURN TO PICK A MAGAZINE
WHY...? BECAUSE THERE'S A PILE OF IT IN THE MAGAZINE SECTION HERE
UH... SORRY, THAT CAN'T BE DONE.
WHY YOKOHAMA WALKER ANYWAY?
THEY DO HAVE THE HOKKAIDO WALKER.
WHAT?!
WELL, YOU SEE... THE STORE I'M IN DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE COPY OF THAT
...BUT...

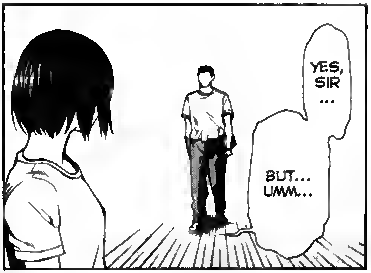
SIMPLY PUT...
...I'M IN HOKKAIDO...
YEAH.
HOKKAIDO?!
THIS FEELS SO UNREAL...
...AND YOU'RE IN YOKOHAMA.
...I WAS GOING CRAZY...
I THOUGHT

SOMEONE TOLD ME ABOUT IT...
SOMEONE WHO'S USED TO USING THE CELL PHONE IN HER HEAD...
STILL, THAT WAS SOME IDEA YOU CAME UP WITH
I DON'T BLAME YOU
SHE AND I HAVE OUR OWN TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US, JUST LIKE YOU AND ME. SO HER NUMBER WILL BE DIFFERENT FOR ME.
IN THAT CASE... EVEN IF YOU TELL ME HER NUMBER, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HER.
SHE SAID THE NUMBER CHANGES WITH THE TIME DIFFERENCE, RIGHT?
THAT'S TOO BAD...
?
YEP
OH... IS THAT HOW IT WORKS?

UM... AIHARA RYOU-SAN?
YES?
CAN I...
...CALL YOU AGAIN?
OF-
THAT
OF COURSE!

...WAS THE BEGINNING OF OUR INCREDIBLE FRIENDSHIP...
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT TODAY.
NEXT, FORM GROUPS OF TWOS AND PRACTICE PASSING THE BALL.
Yes sir!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, AIHARA?
HURRY AND FIND SOMEONE.

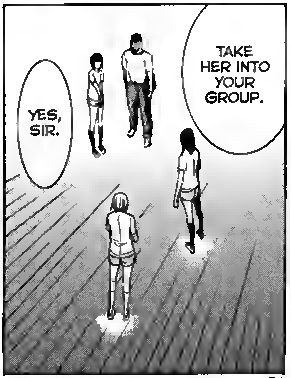
.....


YES, SIR ...
BUT... UMM...

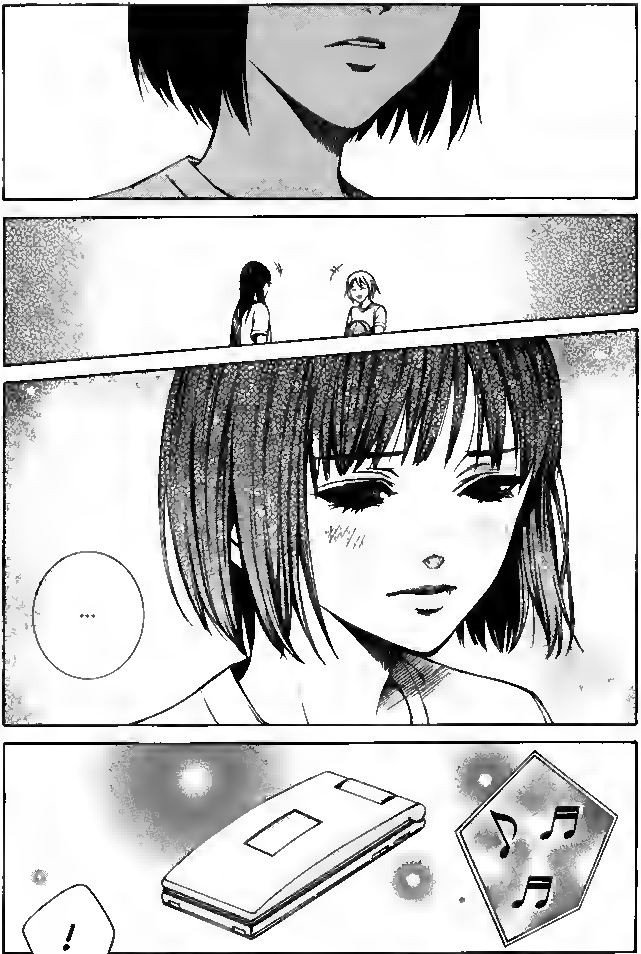
...THE ODD ONE OUT, ARE YOU?

HEY, BOTH OF YOU.

WHAT DID I DO?


TAKE HER INTO YOUR GROUP.
YES, SIR.

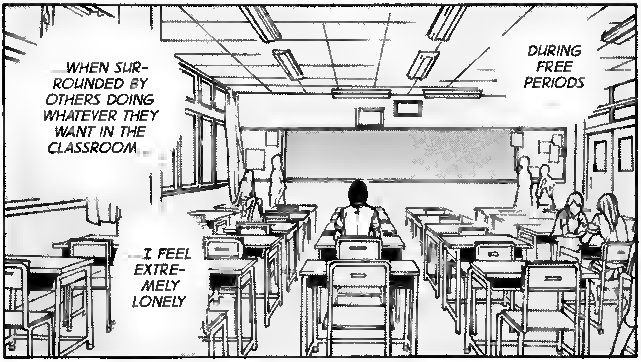
AH!
SMACK
EVER SINCE I JOINED THEM
THEY'VE BEEN ALL SILENT
ROLL
ROLL
.....
AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?
HUH? AGAIN?
HEY,
WHY DON'T WE GO TO THAT SHOP AGAIN...

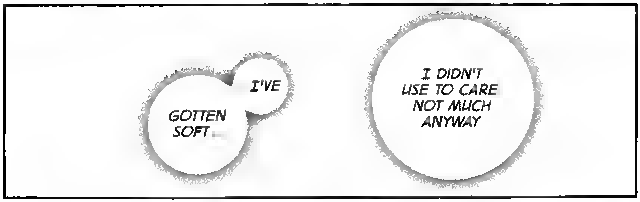


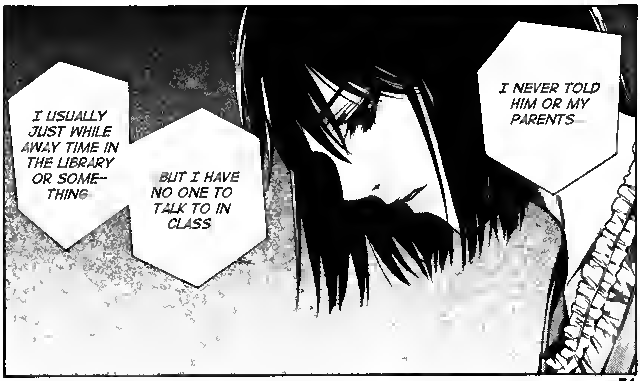
YEAH. BE. BASKETBALL.
HI HAVING CLASS RIGHT NOW?
beep
HELLO?
NOZAKI-SAN?
Nozaki Shinya
I SEE... I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER THEN.
AH!
HANG ON!
ARE YOU SURE?
WON'T YOUR FRIENDS GET ANGRY IF YOU MESS UP?
IT'S FINE, REALLY

IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KOKYOU.ORG

UM...
WE HAVE LONGER AND LONGER CONVERSATIONS ON THE PHONE...
ANYWAY, HOW'S IT GOING?
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT
...
ARE THINGS GOING SMOOTHLY BETWEEN YOU AND NOZAKI-KUN?
I FEEL SO NEGLECTED, SO ALONE ALL OF A SUDDEN...
THE INSTANT WE HANG UP,
I'M SCARED...
...

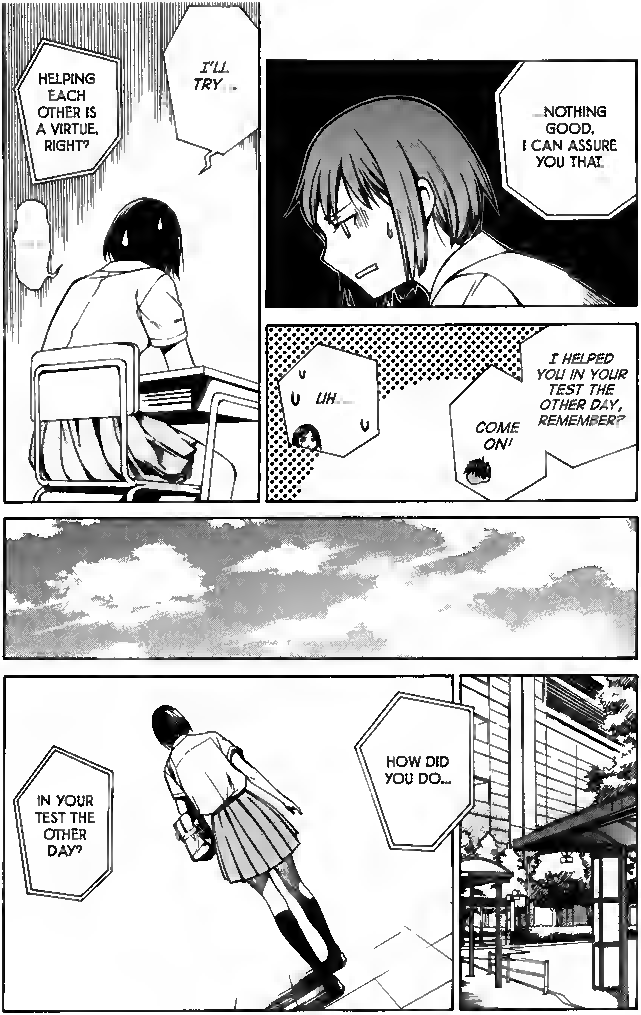

WHEN SURROUNDED BY OTHERS DOING WHATEVER THEY WANT IN THE CLASSROOM...
I FEEL EXTREMELY LONELY
DURING FREE PERIODS


I'VE GOTTEN SOFT...
I DIDN'T USE TO CARE NOT MUCH ANYWAY


I USUALLY JUST WHILE AWAY TIME IN THE LIBRARY OR SOMETHING...
BUT I HAVE NO ONE TO TALK TO IN CLASS...
I NEVER TOLD HIM OR MY PARENTS...

OH, I'M SORRY FOR TELLING YOU ALL THIS.
IT'S OK
I DON'T MIND.
FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER
MY COLLEAGUES ASK ME FOR THAT KIND OF ADVICE ALL THE TIME.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT MAKES THEM GO TO YOU, HARADA-SAN.
IT COULD BE YOUR READINESS TO ACCEPT ANYTHING.
OR YOUR KINDNESS MAYBE
I CAN'T WAIT TO GROW UP MYSELF

WHAT'S THE PAST TENSE FOR THE WORD "SAY" IN "HE SAYS"?
UH...
—WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FAIL?
UM, ELEVENTH-GRADE ENGLISH IS BEYOND ME, YOU KNOW
HELP ME! PLEASE?!
I CAN'T AFFORD TO FLUNK THIS ONE PAPER!!


HELPING EACH OTHER IS A VIRTUE, RIGHT?
I'LL TRY...
...NOTHING GOOD, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT.
UH...
COME ON!
I HELPED YOU IN YOUR TEST THE OTHER DAY, REMEMBER?
IN YOUR TEST THE OTHER DAY?
HOW DID YOU DO...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT YOU'LL BE IN TWELFTH GRADE NEXT YEAR
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU WANT TO DO NEXT?
THANKS TO YOU, I SCORED REALLY WELL!
GREAT!
AH HA HA!
ME TOO! I MANAGED TO PASS MY ENGLISH.
IN FACT, I DID SO GOOD THAT IT WAS SCARY
I'M THINKING OF GETTING A FULL TIME JOB THERE
THERE'S THIS JUNK SHOP IN MY BLOCK.
YEAH
Oh
THRIFT SHOP
I'VE BEEN HELPING PEOPLE FIX THEIR HOME APPLIANCES SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

I'VE LOVED FIXING BROKEN THINGS EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER
IF I'M NOT IN SCHOOL...
...I'LL MOST LIKELY BE AT THE DUMP SITE LOOKING FOR THINGS TO FIX
ISN'T THAT NOZAKI OVER THERE?
HE'S IN OUR CLASS.
WHO?
HEY.

WHAT'S HE DOING OVER THERE?
WHO CARES, MAN!
LET'S JUST GO.
NOZAKI-SAN?

NOZAKI-SAN?
UH, YEAH?
WHAT?
YOUR PARENTS... THEY'RE NOT AGAINST YOU GETTING SUCH A JOB?
THEY GIVE ME FREEDOM
THEY'RE JUST HAPPY IF I HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BEFORE I GO OFF TO FIND A JOB
Scrape
Scrape
BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE ME
HAVE A HARD TIME JOB HUNTING
...PEOPLE LIKE YOU?
YOU KNOW STUFF...
OH.
THIS STEREO LOOKS FINE.

THERE'S THIS CD PLAYER SOMEONE ASKED ME TO FIX. AFTER DAYS OF HARD WORK, I FINALLY DID IT!
I WAS SO ECSTATIC THEN
IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU CAN'T FIX?
IT DEPENDS
...DIDN'T YOU FEEL SAD?
WHEN YOU RETURNED IT TO THE OWNER...
I MEAN... IF IT HAD BEEN ME, I WOULD'VE FELT SAD HAVING TO PART WITH IT...
I'M FINE WITH IT
BECAUSE I KNOW THE CD PLAYER WILL REMEMBER ME...

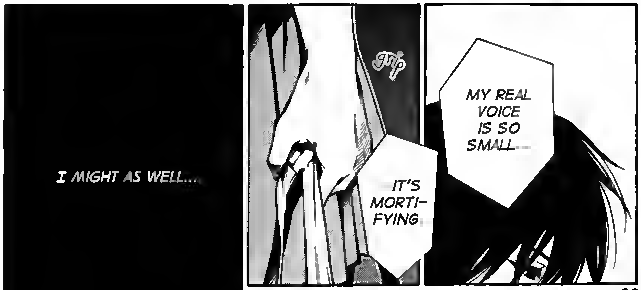
I'M SURE IT FEELS INDEBTED TO ME FOR HAVING FIXED IT
THAT'S WHY I'M FINE WITH IT
FIXING THINGS IS SOMETHING I ENJOY
IT DOESN'T BREAK MY HEART TO SAY GOODBYE
I DITCHED SCHOOL TODAY TO HANG OUT AT THE DUMP SITE.
ANYWAY IT'S WAY MORE FUN THAT STUDYING
giggle
YOU'RE WEIRD, NOZAKI-SAN

IVY SCAN
IVYSCAN.KAKYOKU.ORG

I DON'T REALLY LIKE GOING TO SCHOOL.
I...
AIHARA-SAN?

WHEN I'M IN SCHOOL
I SUDDENLY FIND IT HARD TO BREATHE
AND MY VOICE WON'T COME OUT.
I GUESS...
IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE MY VOICE
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?

Whoosh
SINCE I HARDLY TALK IN SCHOOL,
MY TONGUE DOESN'T GET MUCH EXERCISE
THAT'S WHY MY VOICE DOESN'T COME OUT.


I MIGHT AS WELL...
Gulp
IT'S MORTIFYING.
MY REAL VOICE IS SO SMALL...

HAVE
BEEN
BORN
WITHOUT
A VOICE

I CAN'T STAND MY VOICE...
I COMPLETELY ABHOR IT!
I HATE IT SO MUCH, I WANT TO STICK A KNIFE IN MY THROAT!
...
...NOZAKI-SAN?

DON'T SAY YOU HATE YOUR OWN VOICE...
UM, I
IF YOU CAN SPEAK CLEARLY WHEN YOU'RE IN SCHOOL,
YOU'LL LIKE YOUR VOICE BETTER, RIGHT?
?
MAYBE
I DON'T KNOW.

DO YOU HAVE A STEREO AT HOME?
YEAH, I DO.
WHY...?
TOMORROW'S SUNDAY. ANY PLANS ON FOR THE DAY?
BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY...
I'LL MAKE ONE FOR YOU.

This work is from fans to fans.
If you like Otsuichi and Kiyohara Hiro's work, support them by buying the manga.

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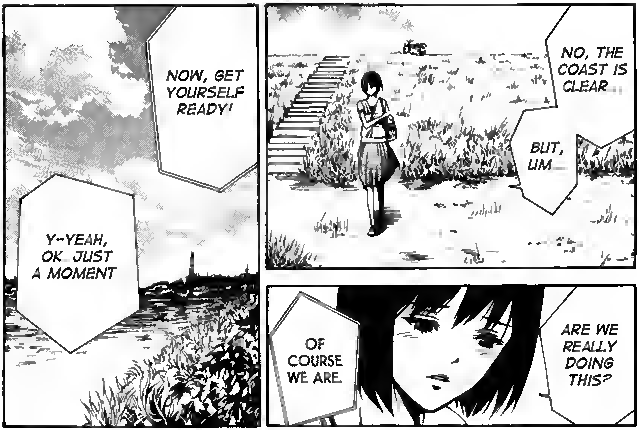
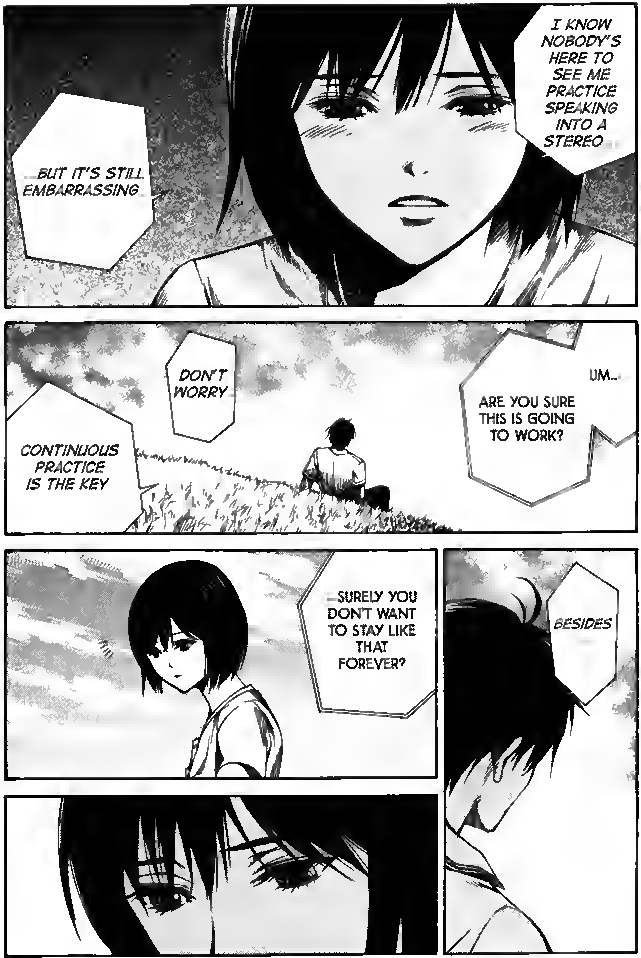
CHAPTER 3

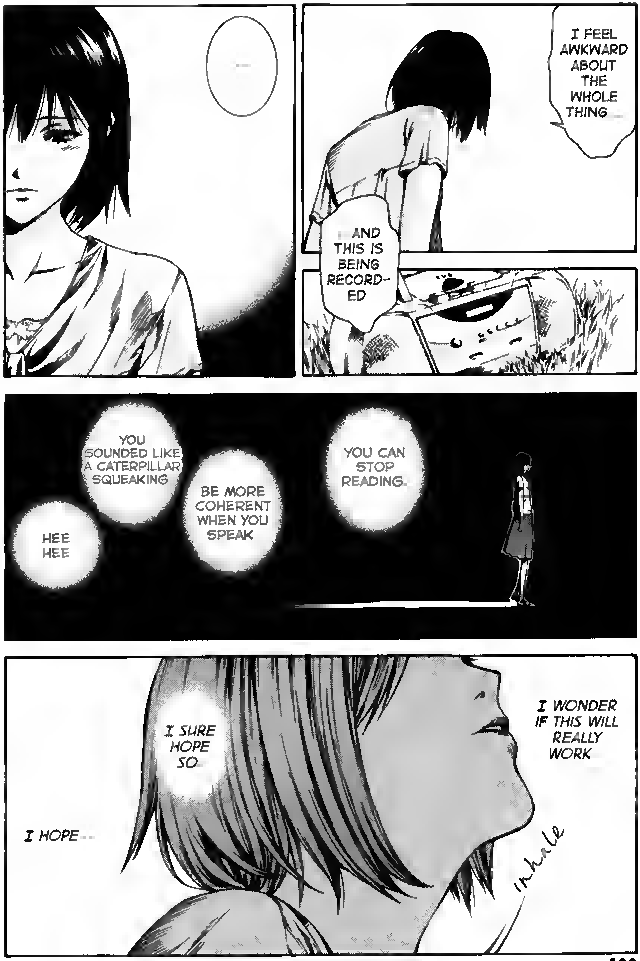
HELLO?
NOZAKI-SAN?
I BROUGHT IT LIKE YOU ASKED ME TO.
IS THERE ANYBODY AROUND?
DID YOU BRING THE STEREO?
I'VE REACHED THE RIVER BANK.

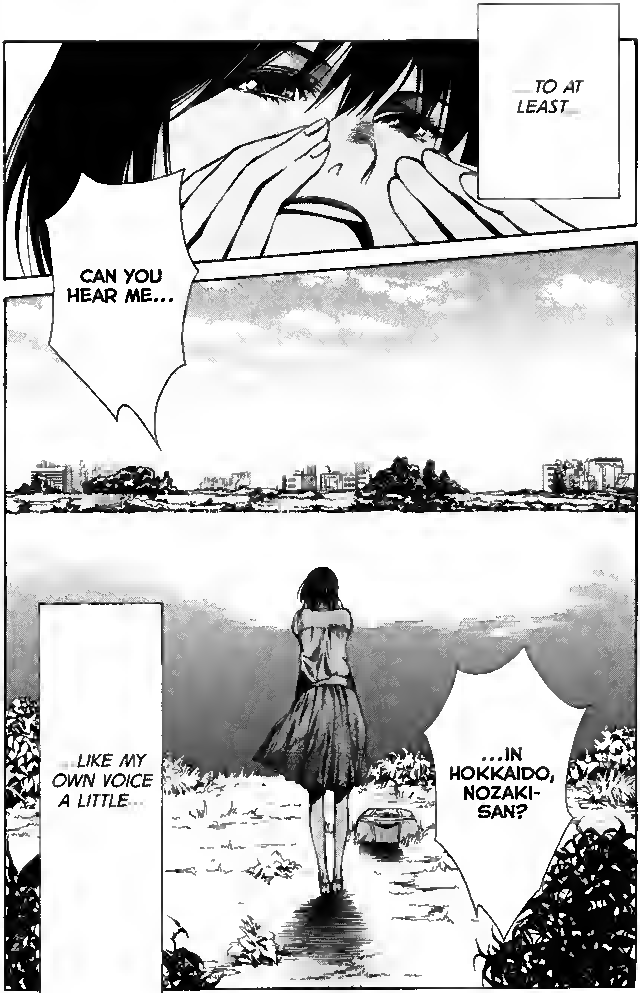

NOW, GET YOURSELF READY!
Y--YEAH, OK. JUST A MOMENT
NO, THE COAST IS CLEAR
BUT, LIM...
ARE WE REALLY DOING THIS?
OF COURSE WE ARE.

THE STEREO IS READY
BUT, LIM, COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME A MINUTE TO PREPARE MYSELF?


I KNOW NOBODY'S HERE TO SEE ME PRACTICE SPEAKING INTO A STEREO
...BUT IT'S STILL EMBARRASSING
UM...
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS GOING TO WORK?
DON'T WORRY
CONTINUOUS PRACTICE IS THE KEY
...SURELY YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY LIKE THAT FOREVER?
BESIDES

FIRST OF ALL,
WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
YOU CAN TRY SHOUTING ABOUT THE THINGS YOU LIKE
ANYTHING'S FINE
UH... TODAY IS JULY THE 8TH...
I-I AM NOW...
...AT AN EMPTY RIVER BANK


...
I FEEL AWKWARD ABOUT THE WHOLE THING...
...AND THIS IS BEING RECORD--ED
YOU CAN STOP READING.
BE MORE COHERENT WHEN YOU SPEAK.
YOU SOUNDED LIKE A CATERPILLAR SQUEAKING
HEE HEE
I WONDER IF THIS WILL REALLY WORK
I SURE HOPE SO.
I HOPE...
inhale


...TO AT LEAST...
CAN YOU HEAR ME...
...LIKE MY OWN VOICE A LITTLE...
...IN HOKKAIDO, NOZAKI-SAN?

DID MY VOICE...
...REACH YOU...
...NOZAKI-SAN?

A WEEK LATER...
HELLO, NOZAKI-SAN?
DO YOU REALLY THINK...
...MY VOICE WILL COME OUT LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE'S DO?
I'M NOW LISTENING TO MY PRACTICE TAPE...
DON'T YOU PRACTICE EVERY DAY?
I CAN SPEAK JUST FINE THROUGH THE PHONE IN MY HEAD...
BUT I STUTTER WHEN I SPEAK OUT LOUD...
IT SOUNDS WEIRD ON TAPE, TOO...
maybe the stereo is old
HAVE SOME FAITH IN YOURSELF.

HEY...
WHAT IS LANGUAGE?
I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HAD BEEN A FOREIGNER
IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU COULD TAPE MY VOICE,
THE ONE THAT ECHOES IN YOUR MIND
TELL ME..
..WHY DON'T YOU TALK IN SCHOOL?

I SEE
BUT WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL REASON?
...EVER SINCE I STOPPED TALKING WITH OTHER PEOPLE...
...MY THROAT AND TONGUE HAVE BEEN WASTING AWAY...
THE FIRST TIME...
THE FIRST TIME I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE TALKING—
WHEN WAS IT?

IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON HER
HER HAIR STYLE...
..TOTALLY DOESN'T SUIT HER
...
EVER SINCE...

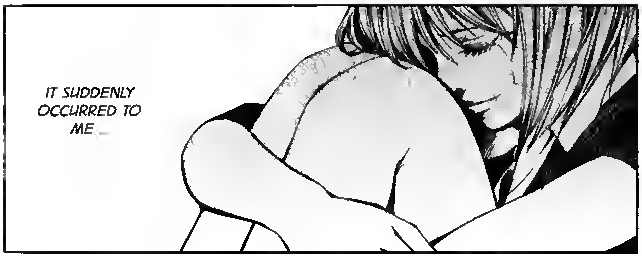
WHAT DID YOU LACK?
.. I NOTICED THAT I LACKED THE SOCIAL SKILLS NEEDED ..
...TO KEEP UP A CONVERSATION
GOOD MORNING!
MORNING!
MORNING!
IT BEGAN IN GRADE SCHOOL...
M-MORNING!

NICE HAIRCUT.
IT SUITS YOU.
AIHARA-SAN, DID YOU HAVE YOUR HAIR CUT?
UM, YEAH.
DOES IT LOOK WEIRD?
I WAS SO HAPPY...
...I KEPT THE SAME STYLE FOR YEARS.
OH!
PSST
BUT THEN...

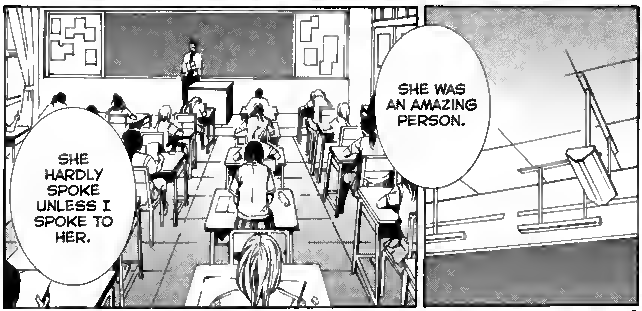
SINCE THEN...
...I GOT EXTREMELY NERVOUS...
...WHENEVER I TRIED TO TALK TO ANYONE
I NEVER GET IT...
...WHEN PEOPLE ARE JUST BEING POLITE OR JOKING AROUND, SO I ALWAYS ANSWER THEM SERIOUSLY
YOU KNOW ...
...AIHARA-SAN HASN'T CHANGED HER HAIRSTYLE SINCE GRADE SCHOOL.
IT TOTALLY DOESN'T SUIT HER.

...I'M SO STUPID, AREN'T I?
AIHARA-SAN...
YES?
THAT'S BECAUSE TOO MANY PEOPLE SAY THINGS THAT THEY DON'T MEAN.
WHAT THINGS?

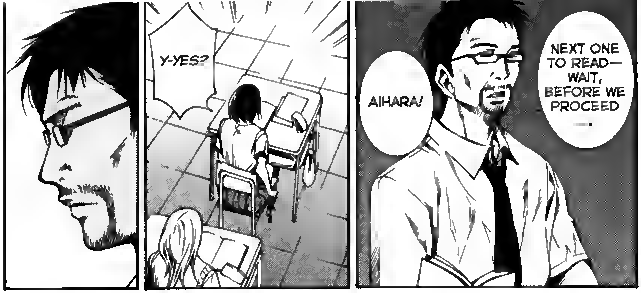
I THINK...
...THAT YOU ALWAYS TAKE THE THINGS PEOPLE SAY TOO SERIOUSLY
WHEN YOU ANSWER THEM, YOU TRY TO PUT MEANING IN EVERY WORD
THAT'S WHY...
THEIR MANY LIES CUT YOU
I DON'T THINK...
...YOU LACK ANYTHING


IT SUDDENLY OCCURRED TO ME...

...HOW PRONE I WAS...
TO CRYING


SHE WAS AN AMAZING PERSON.
SHE HARDLY SPOKE UNLESS I SPOKE TO HER.

KEEPING QUIET CAME AS SECOND NATURE TO HER
...MADE ME APPRECIATE THE WARMTH OF SILENCE.
HOWEVER, THE SHORT TIME I SPENT WITH HER...
HER SERENITY ...
...WAS LIKE A MELODY MORE SOOTHING THAN ANY SYMPHONY
SIMPLY NOT SAYING ANYTHING...
...FELT VERY RELAXING.
YOU MAY SIT DOWN, AIHARA.
THAT IS ALL.


Y-YES?
AIHARA!
NEXT ONE TO READ— WAIT, BEFORE WE PROCEED

I'M GLAD...
...THAT YOU HAVE BECOME CLEARER WHEN YOU READ.

HELLO?
HELLO, NOZAKI-SAN?

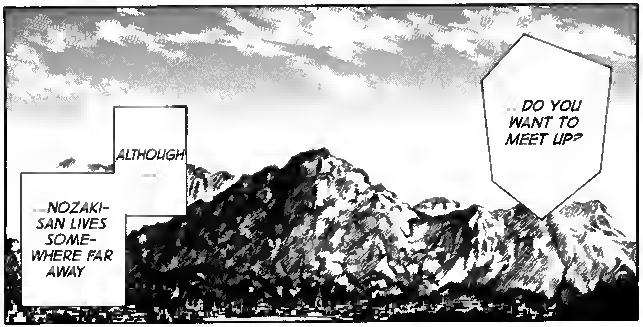
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
NOZAKI-SAN!
OH, UM...
HMM...
WHAT'S UP?
NOTHING
HUH?
WHAT FOR?
I WANT TO CHANGE
ONE SMALL STEP AT A TIME

ARE YOU SAYING...
THAT YOUR VOICE COACHING WORKED OUT IN THE END?
YOU TWO PULLED IT OFF WELL
THAT'S A RELIEF
BY THE WAY...
LATELY I'VE BEEN PRACTICING SOME TONGUE TWISTERS, TOO.
YES, IT DID!
I OWE IT ALL TO NOZAKI-SAN!
CLACK
...HAVE YOU GUYS TALKED ABOUT MEETING UP?

MEET UP...
WITH NOZAKI-SAN?
N-NO...
I DON'T THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE
WE CAN TALK TO EACH OTHER PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THE CELL PHONES IN OUR HEADS
WE'RE NOT IN THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP ANYWAY.
PLEASE DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA
HELLO, RYO-SAN?

YES, I DO! WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
SMALL AND WHITE
I FOUND OUT A TAPE RECORDER JUST THE OTHER DAY IT CAN STILL BE USED AFTER A BIT OF WORK
DO YOU WANT IT?
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY..
..DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOUR STEREO BROKE?
HUH?
YES, PLEASE! I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE IT!
YEAH, OK
I'LL BRING IT TO YOU

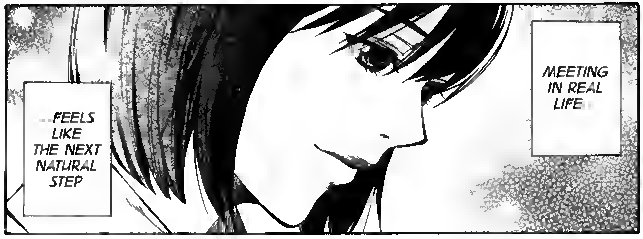
THE KIND OWNER OF THE THRIFT SHOP..
...PLANNED TO GO TO TOKYO ON A BUSINESS ERRAND...
...BUT COULDN'T GO BECAUSE HE BROKE HIS LEG.
SO.
...I'LL BE GOING IN HIS PLACE.
I'LL GIVE THE TAPE RECORDER TO YOU THEN.
TO PUT IT..
IN PLAIN WORDS

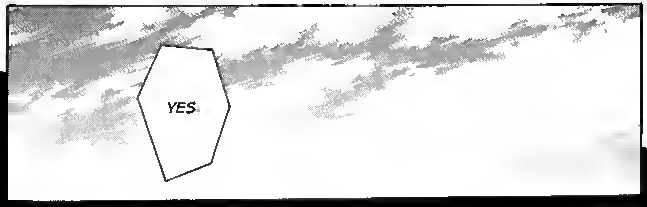


...I'VE ALWAYS FELT HIS HAND HOLDING MINE...

HE'S SOMEONE I TALK TO

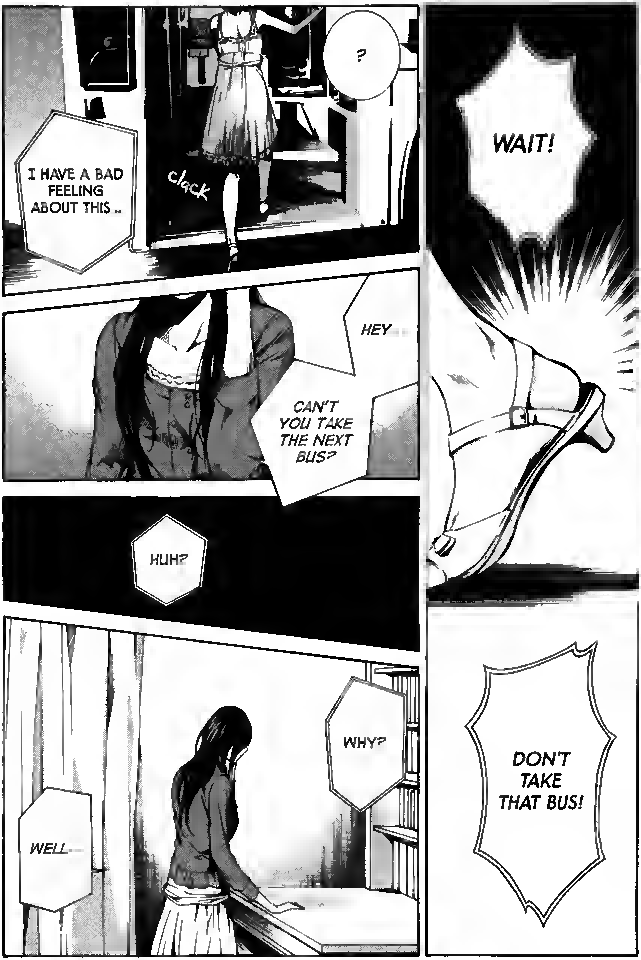
...SOMEONE I POUR MY HEART OUT TO

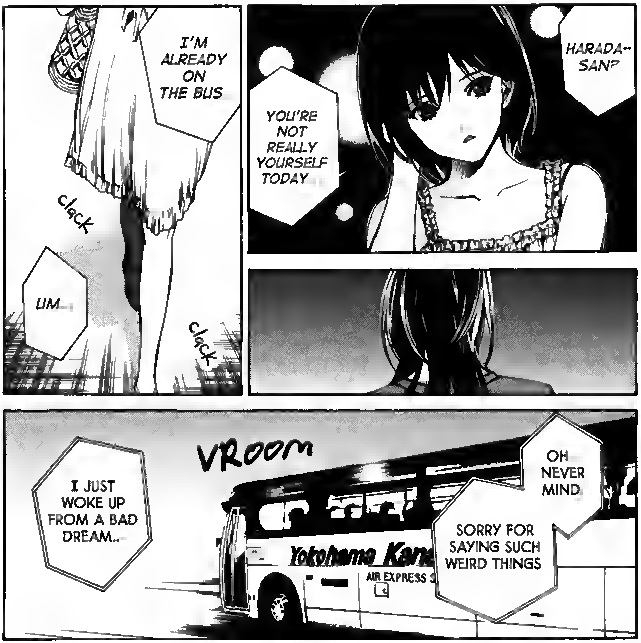


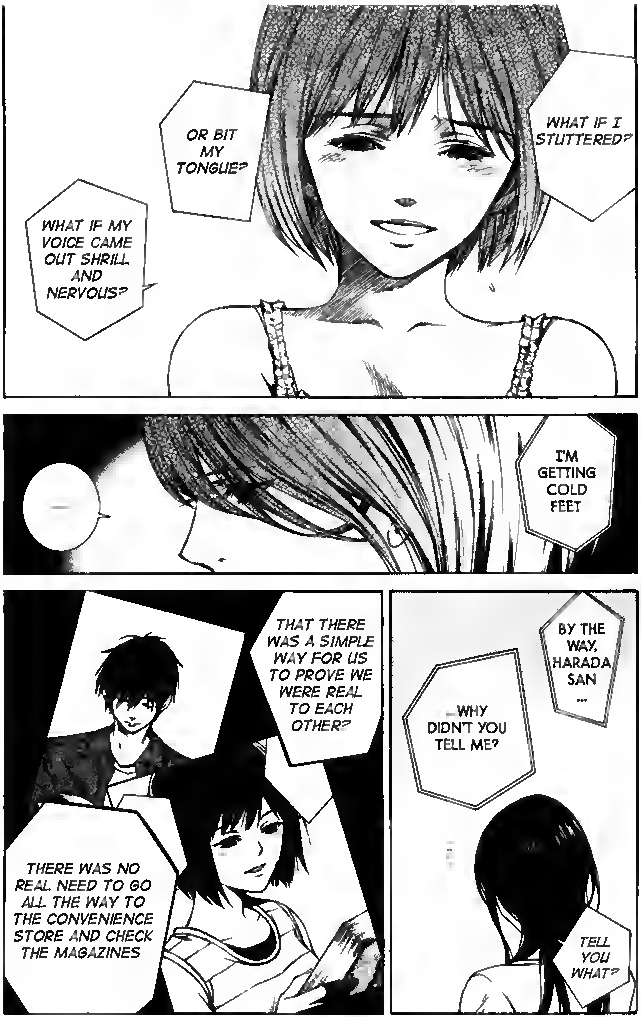


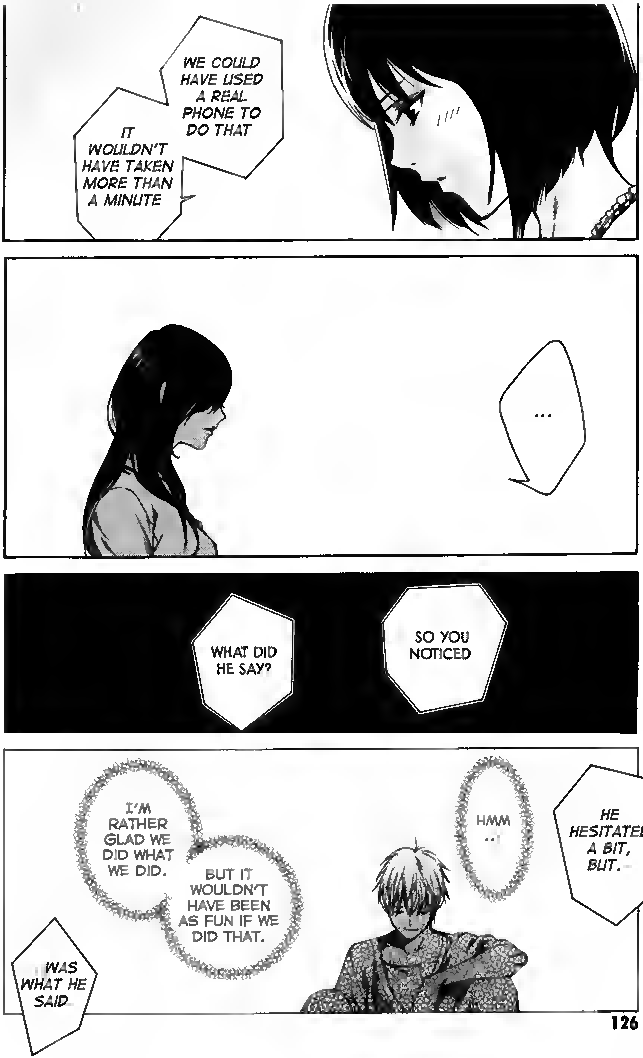
A FEW DAYS LATER
TODAY'S THE DAY
I FEEL KIND OF NERVOUS
!

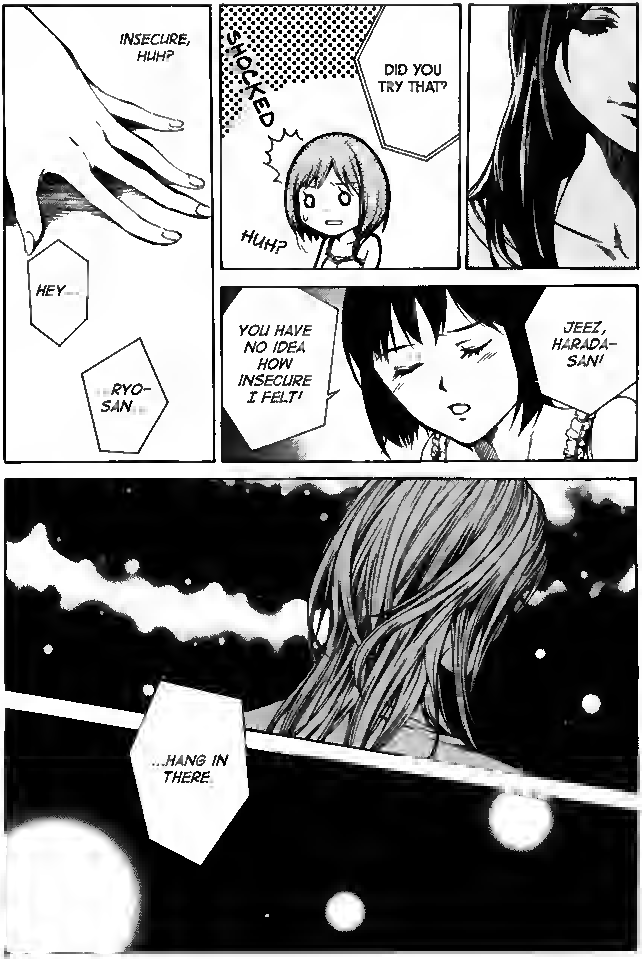
HELLO?
IS THAT YOU RYO-SAN? HARADA HERE.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET THROUGH TO YOU
OH, I'M SORRY
I'VE BEEN ON THE PHONE WITH NOZAKI-SAN A LOT LATELY
I HAVE SOME NEWS!
WE'RE MEETING UP TODAY
I'M NOW GETTING ON AN EXPRESS BUS TO THE AIRPORT
HUH?


?
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS ..
click
WAIT!
HEY...
CAN'T YOU TAKE THE NEXT BUS?
HUH?
WHY?
WELL...
DON'T TAKE THAT BUS!


I'M ALREADY ON THE BUS
clack
UM...
clack
YOU'RE NOT REALLY YOURSELF TODAY...
HARADA-SAN?
VRoom
I JUST WOKE UP FROM A BAD DREAM..
OH... NEVER MIND.
SORRY FOR SAYING SUCH WEIRD THINGS
Yokohama Kana
AIR EXPRESS
I FELT A BIT RESTLESS
NOT REALLY
DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT?


WHAT IF I STUTTERED?
OR BIT MY TONGUE?
WHAT IF MY VOICE CAME OUT SHRILL AND NERVOUS?
I'M GETTING COLD FEET
—
THAT THERE WAS A SIMPLE WAY FOR US TO PROVE WE WERE REAL TO EACH OTHER?
THERE WAS NO REAL NEED TO GO ALL THE WAY TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE AND CHECK THE MAGAZINES
BY THE WAY, HARADA SAN ...
...WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
TELL YOU WHAT?


WE COULD HAVE USED A REAL PHONE TO DO THAT
IT WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MORE THAN A MINUTE
...
WHAT DID HE SAY?
SO YOU NOTICED
I'M RATHER GLAD WE DID WHAT WE DID.
BUT IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AS FUN IF WE DID THAT.
HMM ...
HE HESITATED A BIT, BUT.
WAS WHAT HE SAID


INSECURE, HUH?
HEY...
...RYO-SAN...
SHOCKED
DID YOU TRY THAT?
HUH?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW INSECURE I FELT!
JEEZ, HARADA-SAN!
...HANG IN THERE.

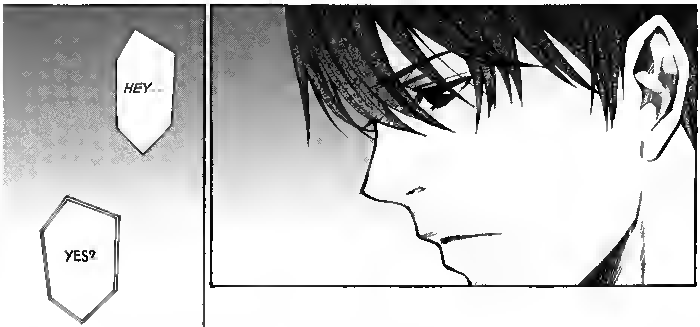
WILL I GET THERE BY THE TIME THE FLIGHT ARRIVES?
HONK
HONK
...
...
sha-a-a
WHAT A PRETTY GIRL
IS SHE IN HIGH SCHOOL, LIKE ME?
SIGH
NOZAKI-SAN
I WONDER HOW YOU'LL SEE ME

Whoosh

I'M SORRY.
LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE LATE THE BUS IS STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF TRAFFIC

RYO
I'M ON THE PLANE RIGHT NOW.

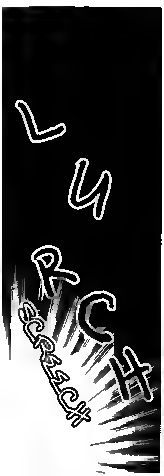
THEN, I'LL PICK YOU UP AT THE BUS STOP
THE NORTH EXIT, RIGHT?


HEY...
YES?

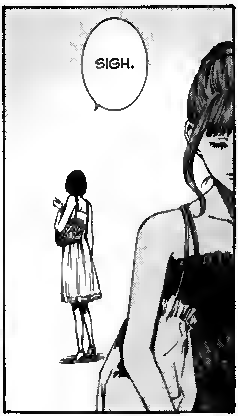
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
sfx screech
SCREECH
SCREECH
EEP!
ACTUALLY...
I'VE BEEN KEEPING SOMETHING FROM YOU!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
shudder
I-I'M FINE
SOME CRAZY DRIVER JUST CUT IN FRONT THE BUS
That scared me

Whoosh

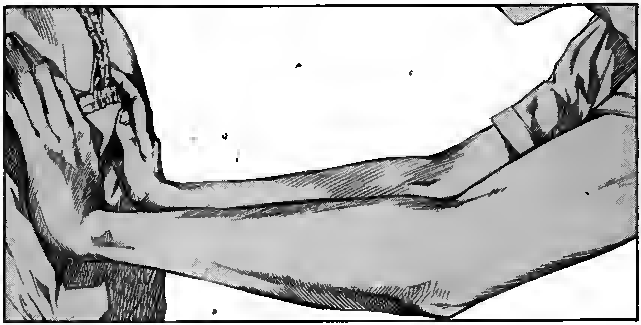
clack


レルヒ
ぎりぎり

ARE YOU HERE ALREADY?

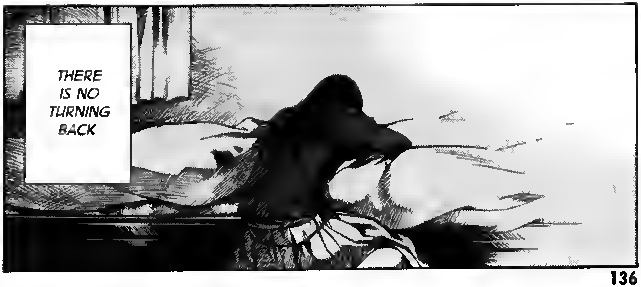

SIGH.

sfx: screech



EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE THAT FATEFUL DAY...
EACH TIME...
I RECALL IT, FEELINGS OF GRATITUDE AND REGRET...
...WASH OVER ME AT THE SAME TIME.

HOWEVER
...
THE HANDS OF TIME...
...CANNOT BE UNWOUND.


THERE IS NO TURNING BACK

This work is from fans to fans.
If you like Otsuichi and Kiyohara Hiro's work, support them by buying the manga.

CREDITS

Scanner
anonymous
Translator
kurenai
Proofreader
Margaret Man
Editor
SHI_VA
QCers
hime & Margaret Man

Ivyscan
IVYSCAN 6th ANNIVERSARY
Anniversary

CHAPTER 4

...I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT ABOUT IT
EVER SINCE I WAS SMALL
HEY, LET'S DROP BY THE ARCADE ON OUR WAY HOME.
YEAH, LET'S GO!
I'LL TAKE YOU BOTH ON!

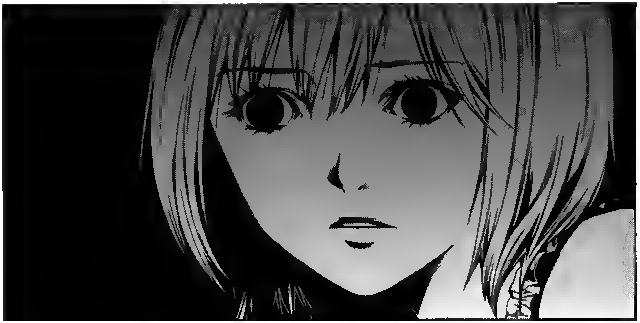
EVERY TIME OTHER PEOPLE CHATTER AWAY...
...I KNOW THAT I CAN NEVER JOIN THEM...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY
I AM
THAT'S RIGHT.

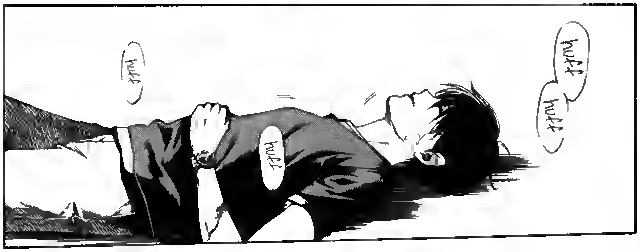
...ALONE.
SHOVE

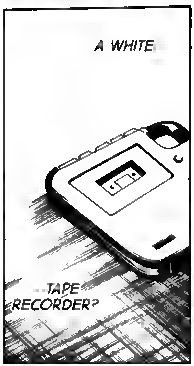
THUD
...!!

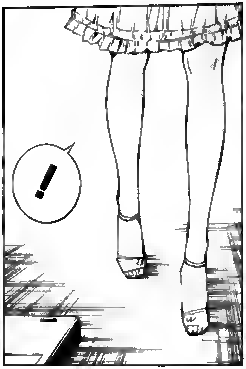
WHAT...?
EEEEKK!
H-HEY!
BUZZ
SOMEBODY JUST GOT HIT BY A CAR!!
WHAT ON EARTH JUST HAPPENED?
SOMEBODY CALL AN AMBULANCE!
BUZZ
WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?
...
...
UM...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

THAT BOY GOT HIT BY A CAR...
...WHEN HE PUSHED YOU OUT OF THE WAY.




huhh
huhh
huhh
huhh

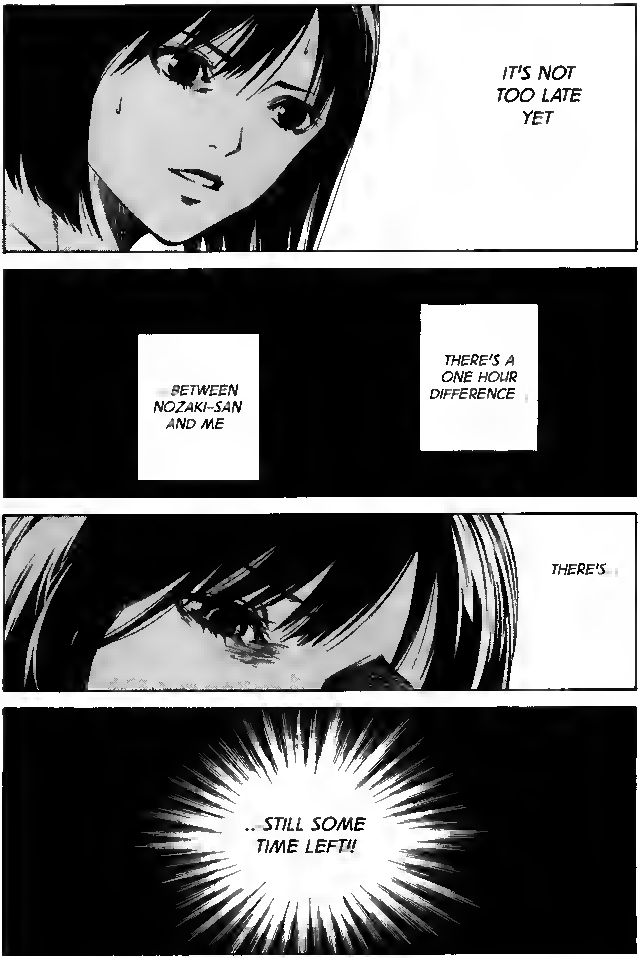

A WHITE
TAPE-RECORDER?


!

...
NOZAKI... SAN?
NOZAKI-SAN?
...
NOZAKI-SAN?

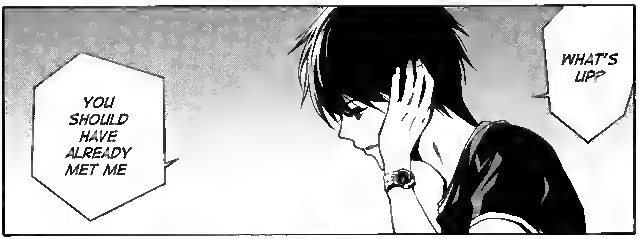
NOZAKI-SAN!
WHY?!
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!
NOZAKI-SAN!
WHY?!!
綜合病院

NOZAKI-SAN...
grab
NOZAKI-SAN...
NOZAKI-SAN...
WHY...?
...!
IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE...


IT'S NOT TOO LATE YET
THERE'S A ONE HOUR DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN NOZAKI-SAN AND ME
THERE'S
...STILL SOME TIME LEFT!!

THAT WAY I CAN TAKE HIS PLACE...
...AND SAVE HIM...
RING RING RING
RING RING RING
RING RING RING

≥beep≤
NOZAKI-SAN!!
RING RING RING
I'M BEGGING YOU
RING RING RING
PICK UP THE PHONE
...
HELLO?


YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY MET ME
WHAT'S UP?

SO... I DIDN'T MEET UP YOUR EXPECTATIONS, DID I?
AH. DID YOU CALL ME TO COMPLAIN?

...THAT'S RIGHT...
I WISH I HADN'T MET YOU.

IS THIS...
...ABOUT ME BEING—
....
I'M SORRY
I...
GO BACK.
I HATE YOU!!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU
YOUR FACE...
YOUR HAIR...

...EVEN YOUR VOICE!!
MY VOICE?
...YOU'RE LYING.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE HEARD MY VOICE.
NO, I'M NOT!
BECAUSE I

...CAN'T SPEAK!
WHEN I WAS FIVE, I LOST MY HEARING IN AN ACCIDENT
I ALSO LOST THE ABILITY TO SPEAK...
SO YOU COULDN'T HAVE HEARD MY VOICE

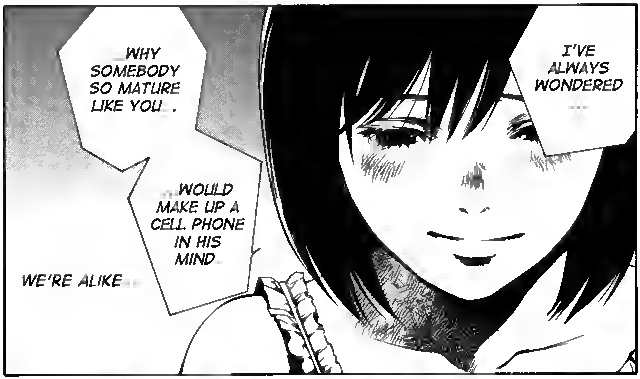
BECAUSE...
...WHY DID YOU TRY TO MAKE ME GO BACK?
RYO
IT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN!!
WHAT HAPPENED WON'T CHANGE!
PLEASE JUST GO HOME
WHAT HAPPENED?!
DON'T!
I'M COMING TO SEE YOU
MY FLIGHT HAS JUST LANDED

IF YOU COME MEET ME...
...YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, NOZAKI-SAN!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE HIT BY A CAR..
..IN ORDER TO SAVE ME..
I'M BEGGING YOU..
GO BACK WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

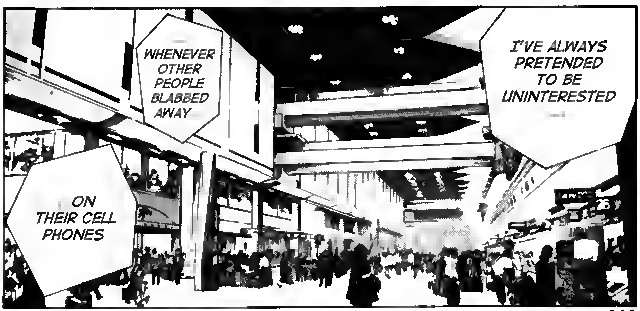
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
SO JUST GO BACK!
IF WHAT YOU TELL ME IS TRUE, I HAVE TO GO OR YOU'LL—
...
I'M GOING TO SAVE YOU.
I'M STILL COMING.

NO...
DON'T COME!
I'LL BE FINE.
I WON'T DIE.
SO DON'T CRY RYO.
TELL ME...
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME WE SPOKE?

I WANTED TO TALK TO SOMEONE
THAT WAS HOW I FELT...
...WHEN I HEARD YOUR VOICE...
I WANTED SOMEBODY WHO WOULD LISTEN...
...SOMEBODY I COULD SHARE MY FEELINGS WITH...
I ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT OF IT.


I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED
WHY SOMEBODY SO MATURE LIKE YOU...
WOULD MAKE UP A CELL PHONE IN HIS MIND...
WE'RE ALIKE...

I WAS JEALOUS...

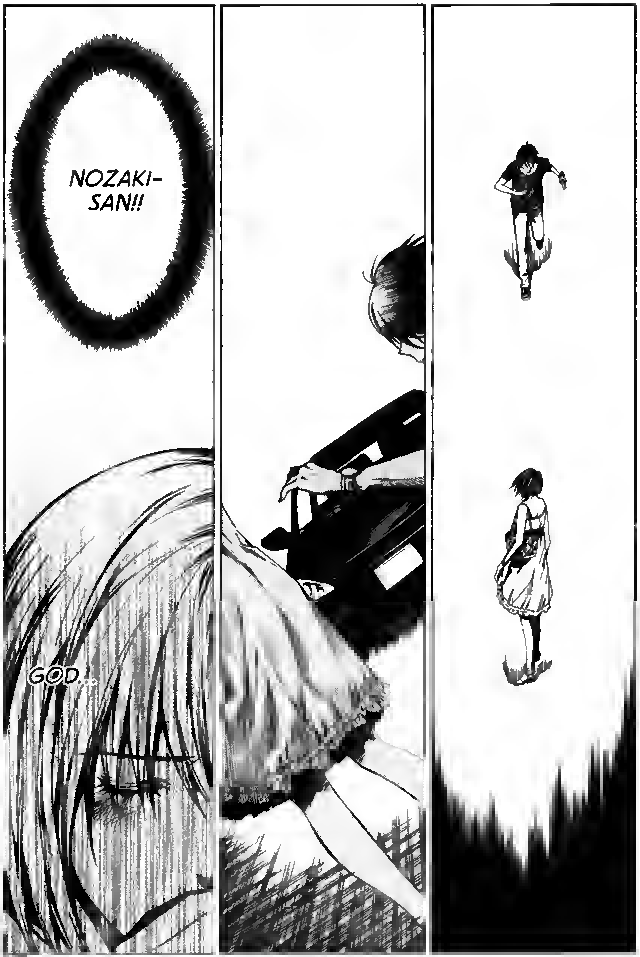

I'VE ALWAYS PRETENDED TO BE UNINTERESTED...
WHENEVER OTHER PEOPLE BLABBED AWAY...
ON THEIR CELL PHONES

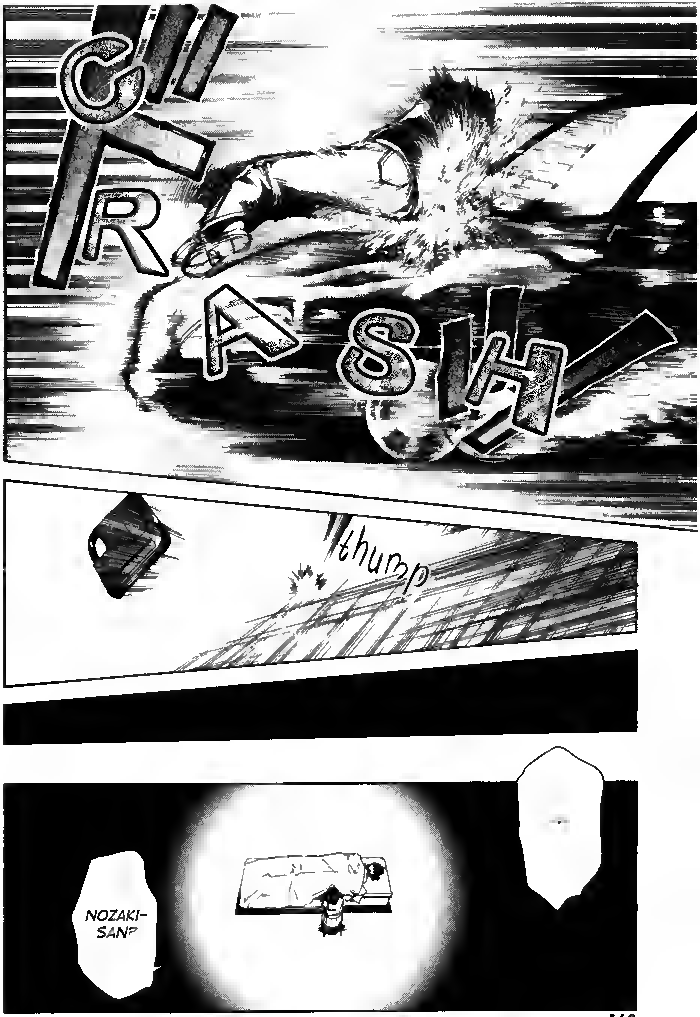
RYO!
WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M NOW AT THE EXIT!
NOZAKI-SAN
RYO!!
BLACK...
...DRESS...

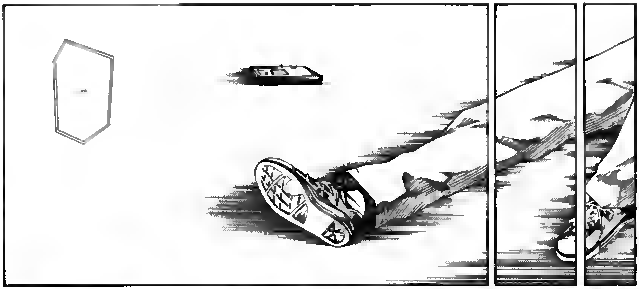
...I'M WEARING A BLACK DRESS...
TODAY...
IF HE MISTAKES HER FOR ME...
THAT GIRL ON MY BUS...
FOUND YOU!!
THE GIRL IN THE BLACK DRESS!

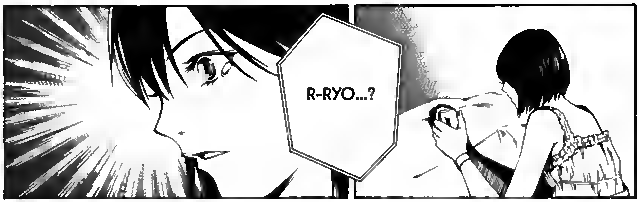
NO
THAT'S NOT RYO!
?! A CELL PHONE?
A WRISTWATCH
IS THAT HER?

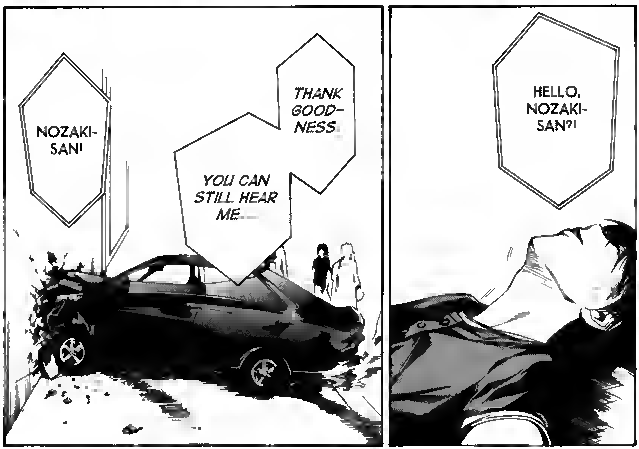
sfx vroom
NOZAKI-SAN...
NOZAKI-SAN?


NOZAKI-SAN!!
GOD...


CRASH
thump
NOZAKI-SAN?



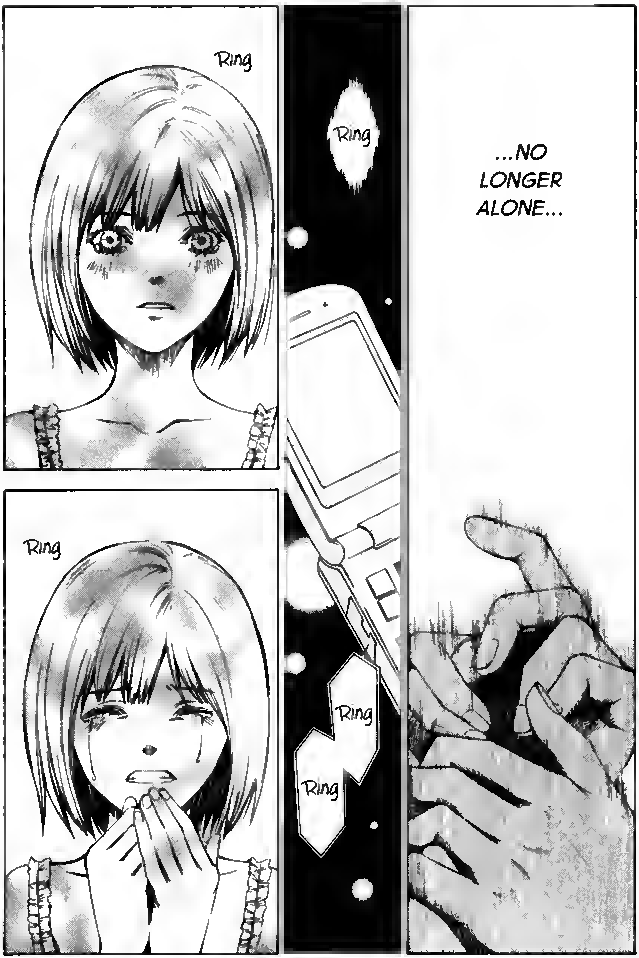

R-RYO...?

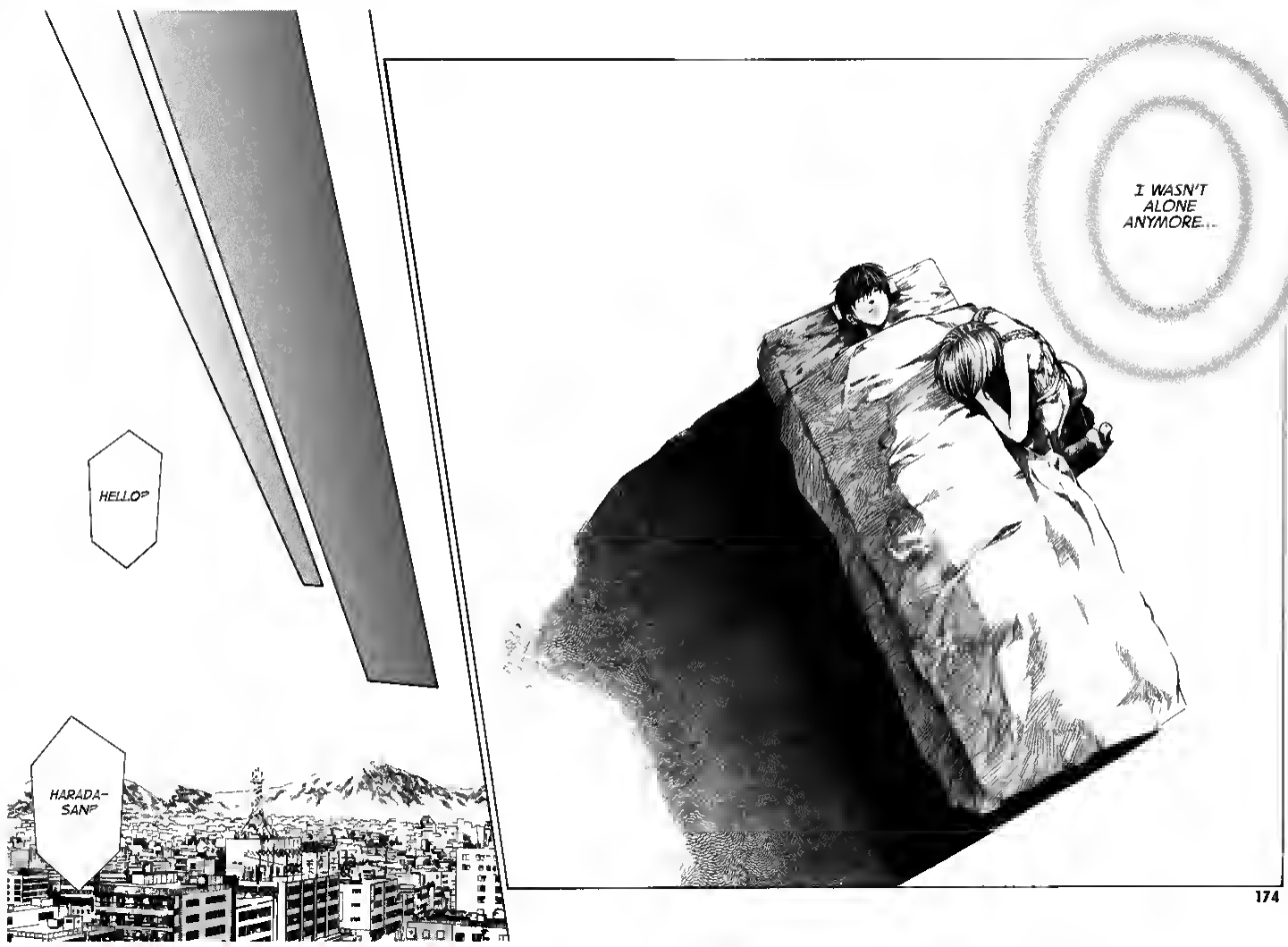

NOZAKI-SAN!
THANK GOOD-NESS...
YOU CAN STILL HEAR ME—
HELLO, NOZAKI-SAN?!

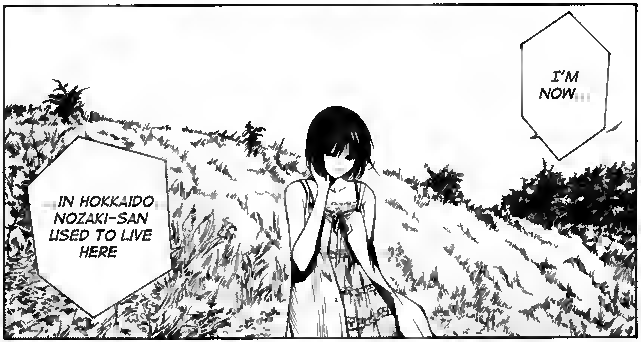
ARE YOU OK? I SHOVED YOU PRETTY HARD
YES, I'M FINE
huff
huff
I CAN SEE YOU STANDING UP
AND...
YOU WERE CALLING MY NAME
YOU WERE SAYING "NOZAKI-SAN"...
I'M SURE YOU HAVE A LOVELY VOICE

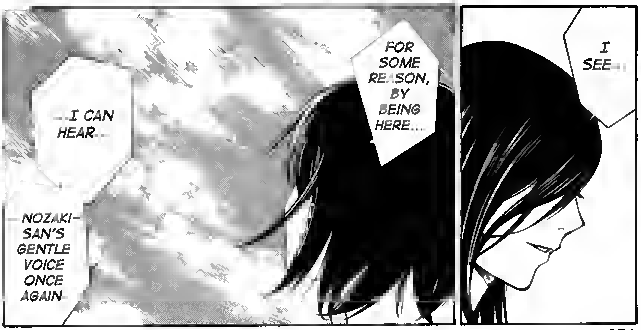
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO THIS FAR
...TO SAVE ME?
I THOUGHT...
...THAT I WOULD ALWAYS BE ALONE...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...BUT...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED ME

NOW THAT I'VE MET YOU...
WE ARE
THANK YOU... RYO

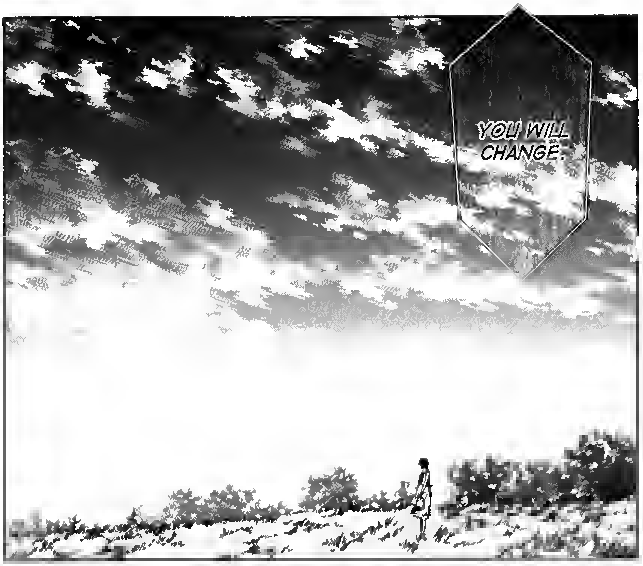

Ring
Ring
...NO LONGER ALONE...
Ring
Ring
Ring


I WASN'T ALONE ANYMORE...
HELLO?
HARADA-SAN?


I'M NOW...
IN HOKKAIDO, NOZAKI-SAN USED TO LIVE HERE


I SEE...
FOR SOME REASON, BY BEING HERE...
...I CAN HEAR...
NOZAKI-SAN'S GENTLE VOICE ONCE AGAIN

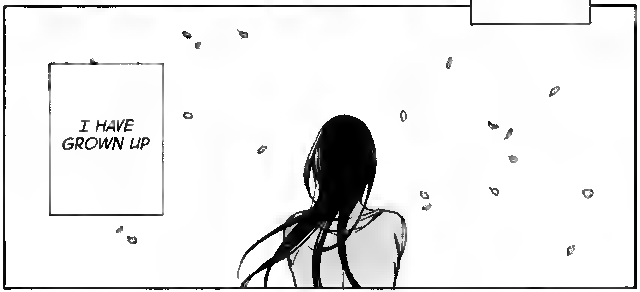
SOMEDAY
...I HOPE TO GROW UP TO BE A STRONG PERSON LIKE YOU
DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE?
HUH?
...THAT'S NOT A QUESTION
YOU WILL

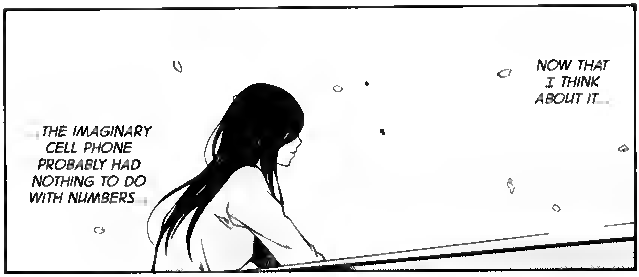

YOU WILL CHANGE.

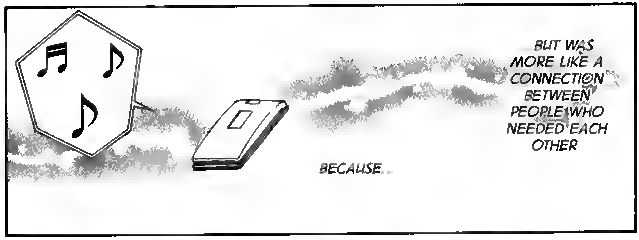
HARADA-SAN..

...I SPOKE TO HER ON THE PHONE.
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME...

DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS HAVE SINCE PASSED


I HAVE GROWN UP


NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
THE IMAGINARY CELL PHONE PROBABLY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH NUMBERS...


BUT WAS MORE LIKE A CONNECTION BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO NEEDED EACH OTHER
BECAUSE...

MY YOUNGER SELF NEEDED HER VOICE
HELLO?

I'M NOT SOME FREAK, OF COURSE.
UM UH..
I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT OF THE BLUE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IT'S ALL RIGHT
WE'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT

BECAUSE
...WE ARE NOT ALONE...

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If you like Otsuichi and Kiyohara Hiro's work, support them by buying the manga.

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SHI_VA
QCers
hime & Margaret Man

CHAPTER 0

I WAS FIVE WHEN I GOT INTO AN ACCIDENT...
... AND LOST MY PARENTS.
I REMEMBER...
WHEN I CAME TO, I FOUND MYSELF IN A HOSPITAL BED.
...AND ALSO...
...MY GRANDMOTHER RUSHING TO ME WITH A WORRIED EXPRESSION ON HER FACE.
...THE BURNING SENSATION IN MY EARS.

CRUNCH
IT WAS PART OF MY DAILY ROUTINE.
IF I FOUND ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE USABLE AFTER SOME FIXING, I WOULD TAKE IT HOME.
THIS PROBABLY CAN'T BE FIXED...
THE DUMP SITE ON MY BLOCK
...WAS MY FAVORITE PLACE.
A CELL PHONE?

I NEVER HESITATED TO GIVE AWAY SOMETHING THAT I HAD FIXED—

TO ANYONE WHO WANTED IT

I HAD ENJOYED FIXING BROKEN THINGS EVER SINCE I COULD REMEMBER

KNOWING THAT THOSE THINGS COULD PUT A SMILE ON SOMEONE'S FACE...

...SAVED ME IN A WAY.

KNOWING THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME STILL HAD SOME VALUE—

—MADE ME HAPPY

I CAN'T GET PARTS FOR IT, EITHER.

I GUESS IT CAN'T BE FIXED AFTER ALL

...

click

TO BE HONEST...
...I WANTED ONE FOR MYSELF, JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE
A CELL PHONE, HUH?
YOU RARELY SEE PEOPLE WITHOUT ONE THESE DAYS.
THE DAY I HAD THAT ACCIDENT...
...WAS THE DAY MY WORLD LOST ALL SOUND.
...HAD NO USE FOR A CELL PHONE
SOMEBODY LIKE ME, WHO NOBODY WANTED TO TALK TO...
THAT WAS HOW I USUALLY REASONED IT.

...DEEP DOWN, THERE WAS A PART OF ME THAT REFUSED TO RELENT.
STILL...
I WANTED TO TALK.
I WANTED TO TALK WITH OTHER PEOPLE...
...NOT THROUGH WRITING OR SIGN LANGUAGE...
...BUT WITH MY OWN VOICE AND MY OWN WORDS.
WHEN I SAW OTHER PEOPLE HAPPILY CHATTERING AWAY IN THE CLASS...
...THAT DESIRE ENVELOPED MY HEART LIKE THE INEXORABLE...
...NIGHT

I WAS PROBABLY FANTASIZING SO MUCH...
TOOT TOOT TOOT
...TO COMPENSATE FOR A WISH THAT WOULD NEVER BE GRANTED.
BUT...
TOOT TOOT TOOT
SO I REACHED THE POINT WHEN
I RESORTED TO PICTURING A CELL PHONE IN MY HEAD

SOMEDAY

THERE WOULD BE SOMEONE OUT THERE...

...WHO WOULD TALK TO ME AND HEAR MY VOICE...

POSTSCRIPT

Hello. This is Otsuichi, the author.

I have been asked to write the postscript to the manga version of the short story that I wrote quite a while ago. The story was written during my third year in university. I remember getting the idea while snuggled under a kotatsu and completing the plot on sheets of A4 paper in an hour or so. The feat was completed lightning fast.*

By the way, it took place on Christmas Day. I don't remember why, but I was alone in my room eating cup udon, while the rest of the world was celebrating. This story might not have seen the light of day, if I had been outside having fun with someone. It was fortunate that I was alone in my room. Perhaps this story is filled with resentment.

Out of all of my works, the short story that this manga was based on is the most embarrassing. Just remembering the plot makes me squirm. a pair of teenagers communicating via radio waves.

*A low wooden table frame covered by a futon or heavy blanket, upon which a table top sits. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kotatsu

With every adaptation of the story, be it manga or film, my shame doubles when the lines that came off the top of my head appear onscreen or elsewhere.

However, I had hoped that this adaptation—drawn wonderfully by Kiyohara-sensei—would exorcise my embarrassment and keep me glued to the very end, but that, of course, was not the case. I got squeamish.

Kiyohara-sensei's art was absolutely beautiful. I especially liked how the hero was drawn so handsomely.

As to why I named him Shinya, I had been watching one Tsukamoto Shinya film after another when I was writing the novella. The director's name stuck, and we have our Shinya.

You did a great job, Kiyohara-sensei.

Many thanks to those who bought this book.

One last note. When I wrote this story, I wanted to write something along the lines of my favorite short story, Jack Finney's "Love Letter." To those who enjoyed reading this manga, you would probably be delighted by "Love Letter."

This work is from fans to fans.
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